

I N N O C E N T

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OMNIBUS

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Shin'ichi Sakamoto

坂本眞一



INNOCENT

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OMNIBUS 2

Story and Art

SHIN'ICHI SAKAMOTO

坂本眞一

Translation

MICHAEL GOMBOS

Lettering and Retouch

SUSIE LEE and STUDIO CUTIE



Dark Horse Manga




Genesis of the Innocent

The eighteenth century began the revolution that would become the flashpoint for modern society, espousing the ideals of freedom and equality.

In the shadows was one of the main players in the events that would unfold: Charles-Henri Sanson. This is the story of a man who faced a brutal fate with pride and dignity, as one who was *innocent*.

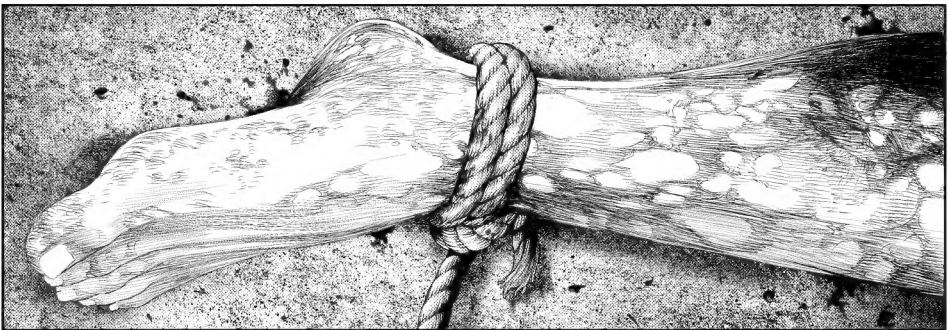
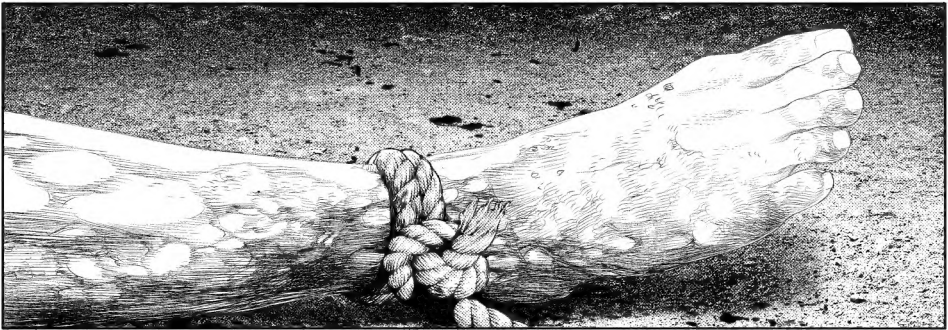
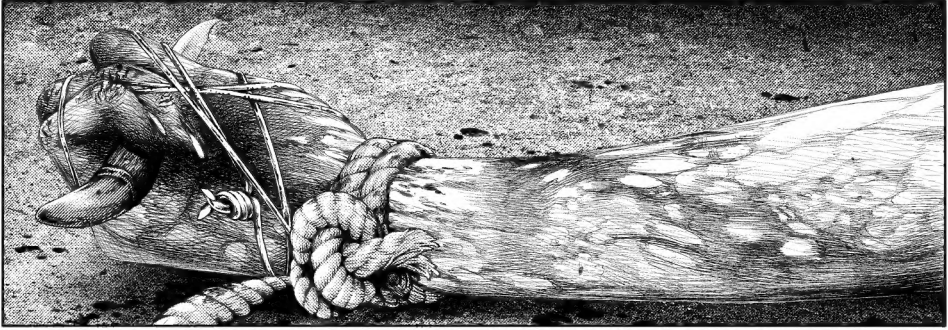
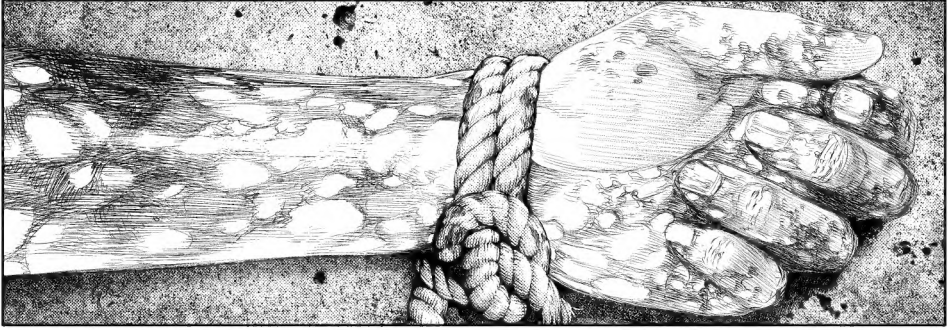


Genesis of the Innocent



The little prince said, “What is essential is invisible to the eye.” For even if one is careless about seeing with the heart, all will be revealed in time, appearing in the form of words and actions. I, too, desire to value most that which I cannot see.

—Shin’ichi Sakamoto

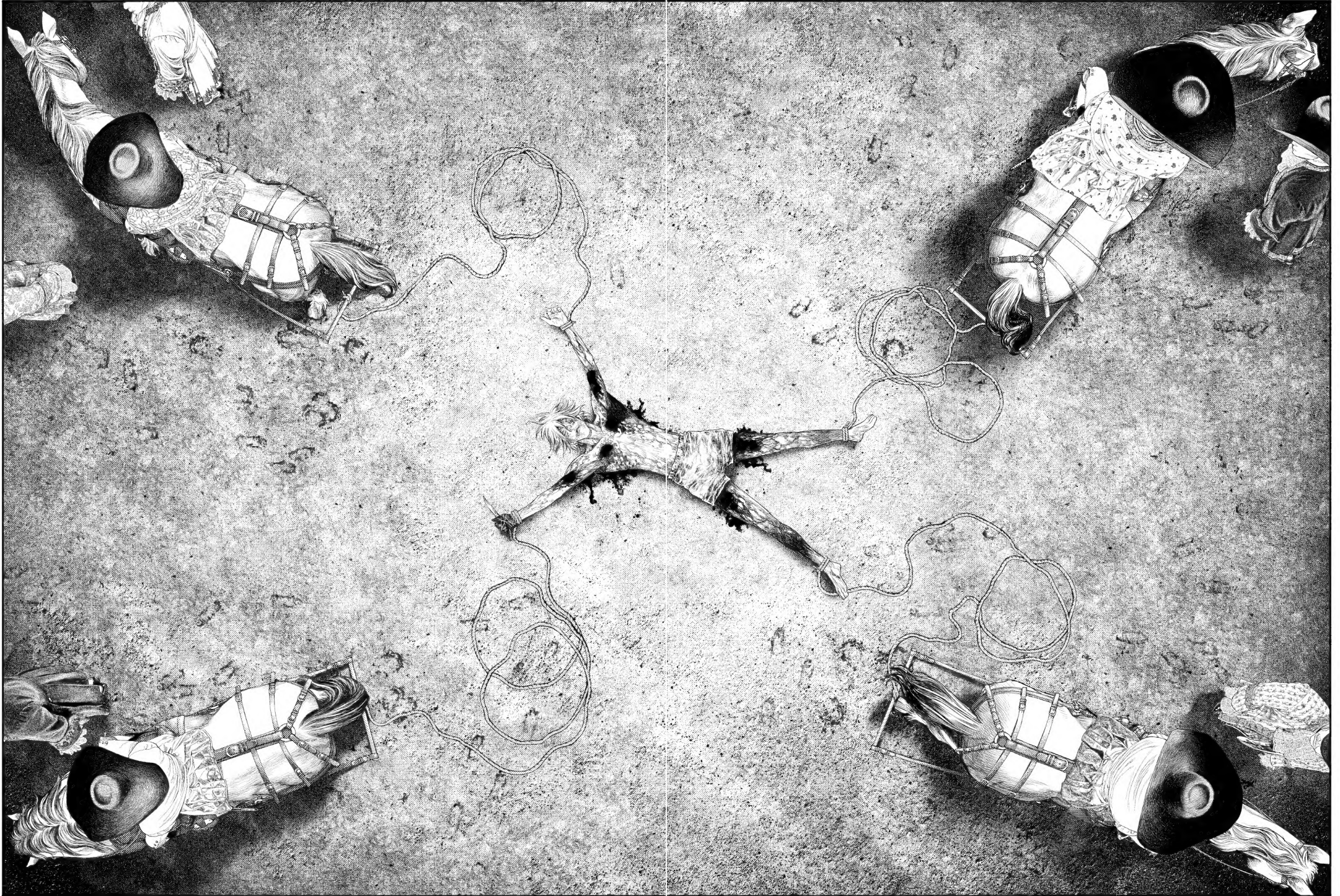






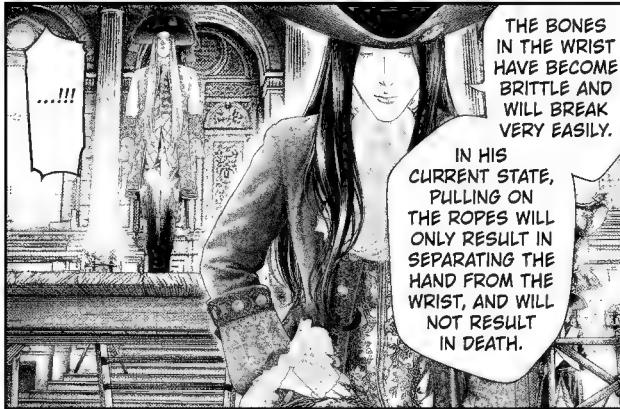


n°32 Method of Expiry









THE BONES
IN THE WRIST
HAVE BECOME
BRITTLE AND
WILL BREAK
VERY EASILY.

IN HIS
CURRENT STATE,
PULLING ON
THE ROPES WILL
ONLY RESULT IN
SEPARATING THE
HAND FROM THE
WRIST, AND WILL
NOT RESULT
IN DEATH.

...!!!



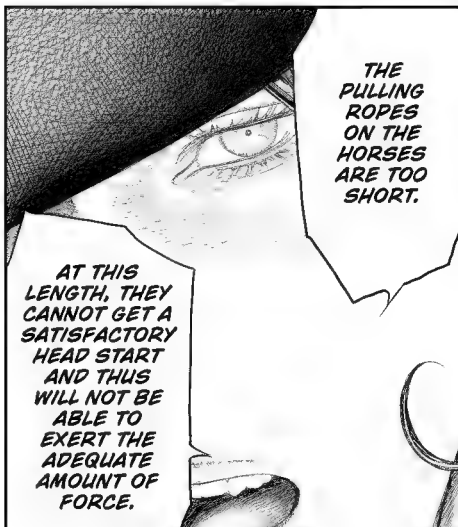
WHAT
ON EARTH
ARE
YOU ON
ABOUT,
CHARLES?



THE
EPICONDYLES*
AT THE ENDS
OF THE HUMERUS
AND THE FEMUR
WILL CREATE
A NATURAL HOOK
TO WHICH THE
ROPE CAN
CONNECT.

SO THEN,
UNCLE, SEE
TO IT THAT
THE ROPE IS
RETIED ABOVE
THE ELBOWS
AND KNEES
AT ONCE.

*EPICONDYLE: A PROTUBERANCE AT THE END OF A LONG BONE, PARTICULARLY THE FEMUR OR HUMERUS.



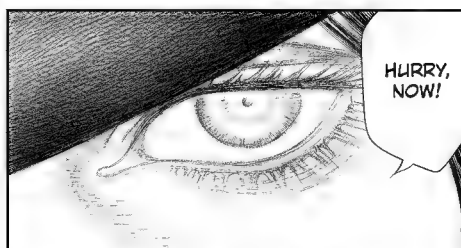
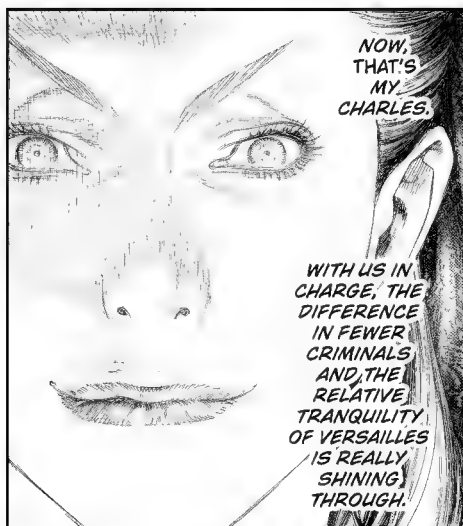
THE
PULLING
ROPES ON THE
HORSES
ARE TOO
SHORT.

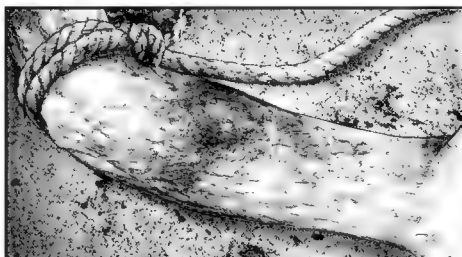
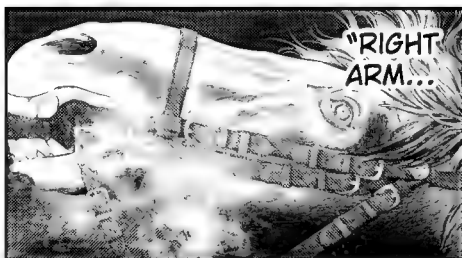
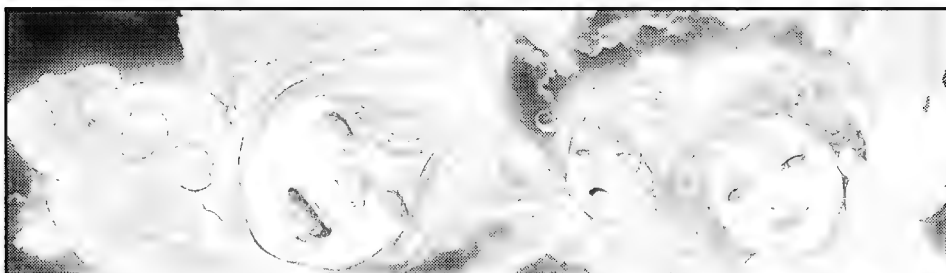
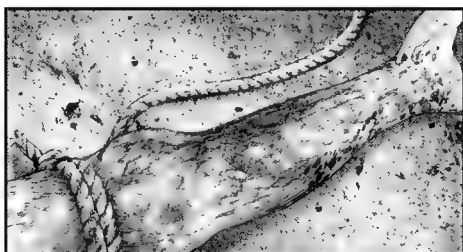
AT THIS
LENGTH, THEY
CANNOT GET A
SATISFACTORY
HEAD START
AND THUS
WILL NOT BE
ABLE TO
EXERT THE
ADEQUATE
AMOUNT OF
FORCE.



S-
SILENCE,
CHARLES!

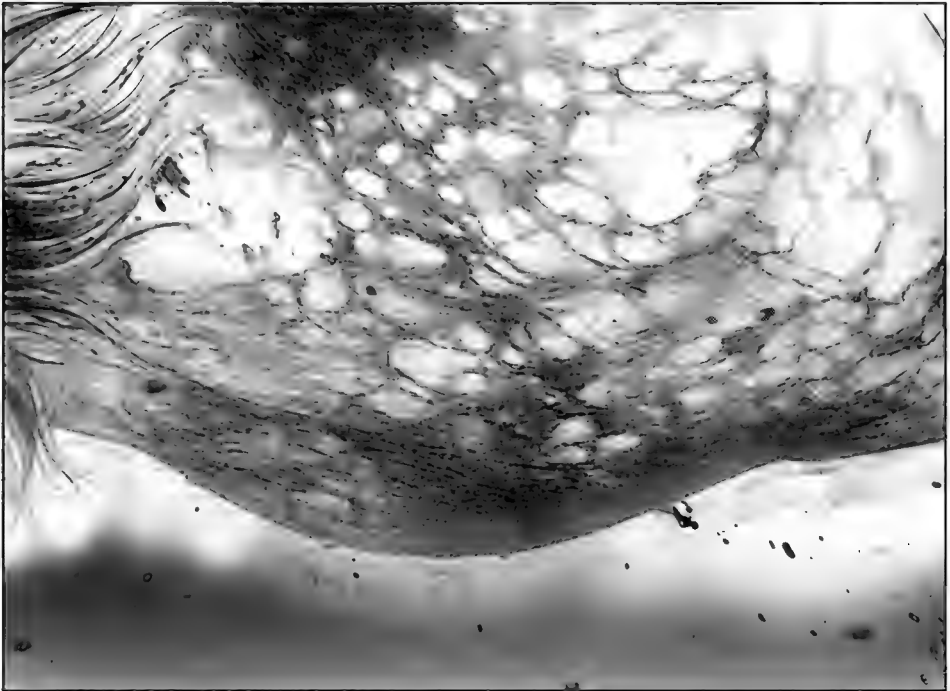
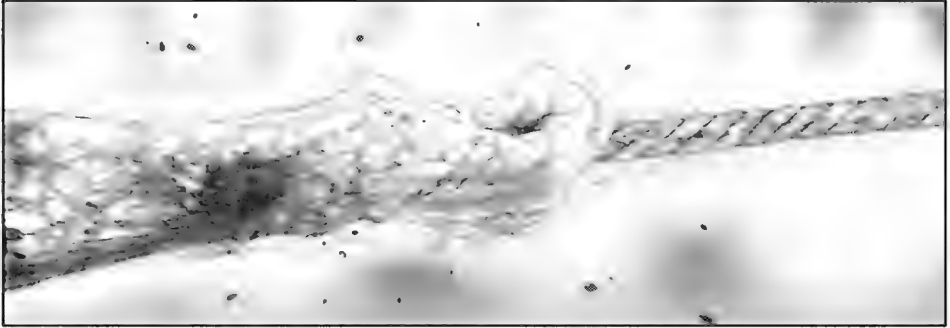
I AM
IN CHARGE
HERE!
DO YOU
THINK I
NEED
TO BE
EDUCATED
ON THIS
MATTER?











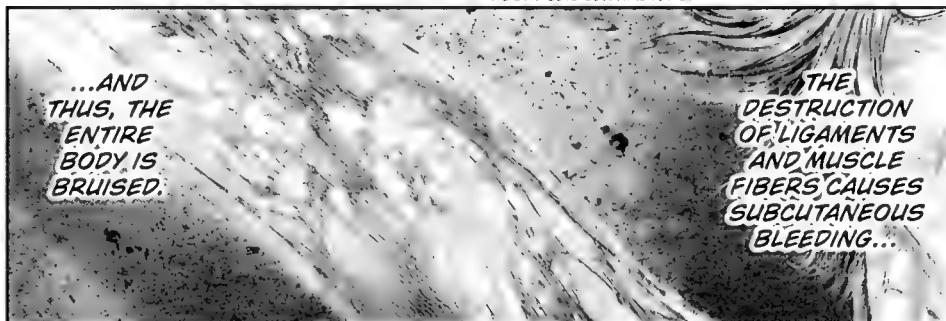


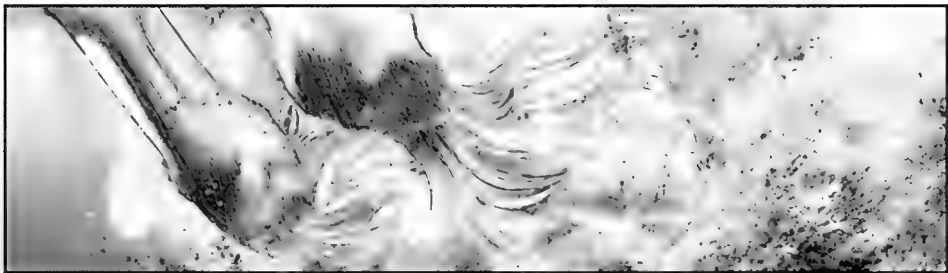
n°33 Absolute Paternal Authority

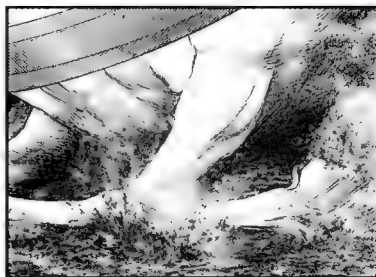
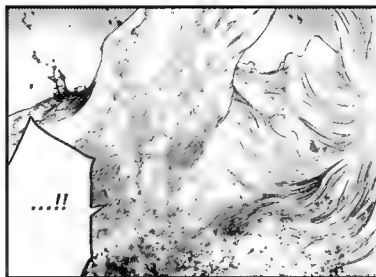
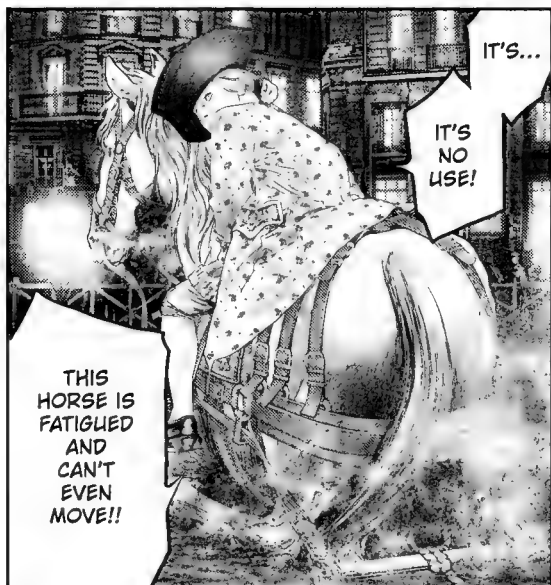


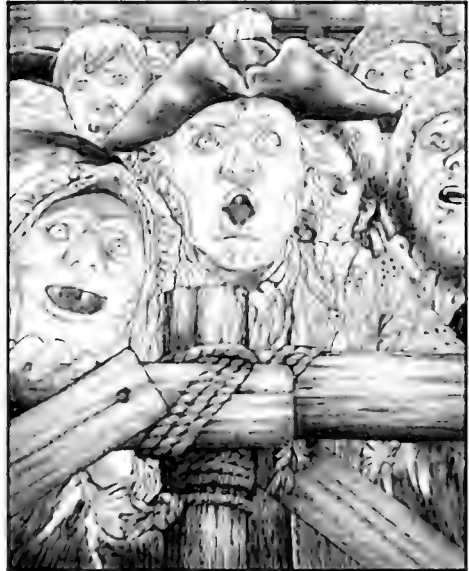
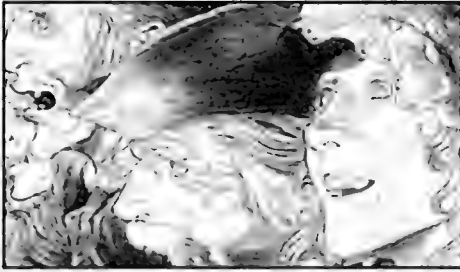


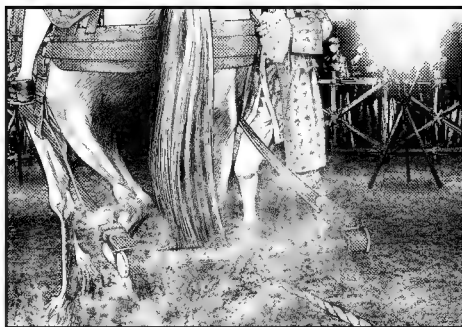
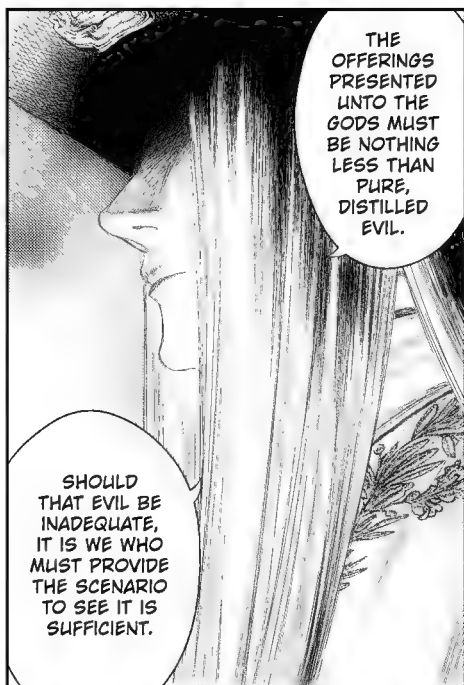
*A UNIT OF MEASURE. THE PIED DU ROI (OR KING'S FOOT) IS ABOUT 32.5 CENTIMETERS.

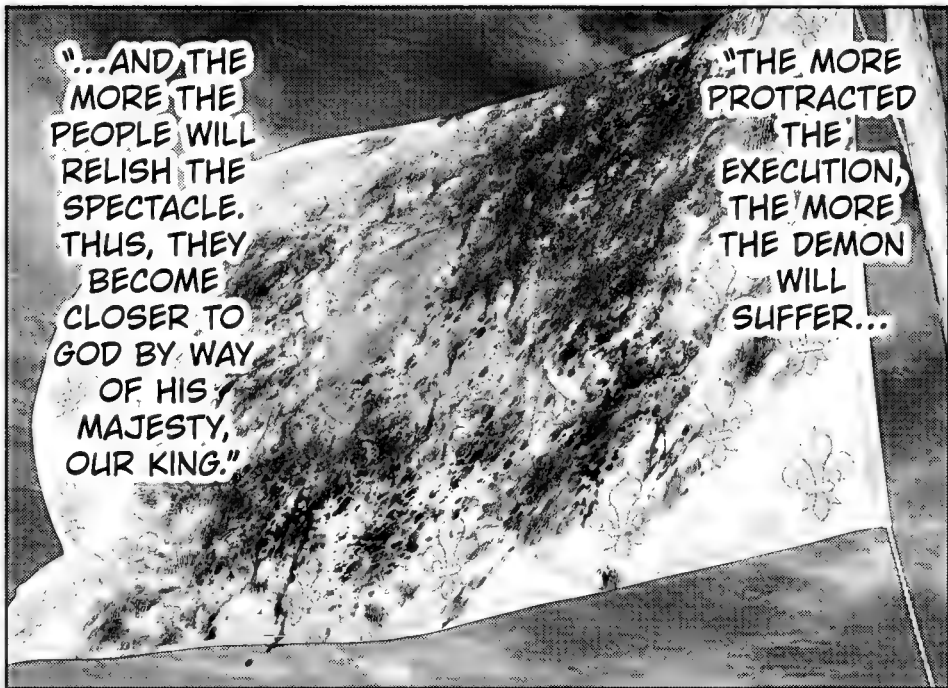






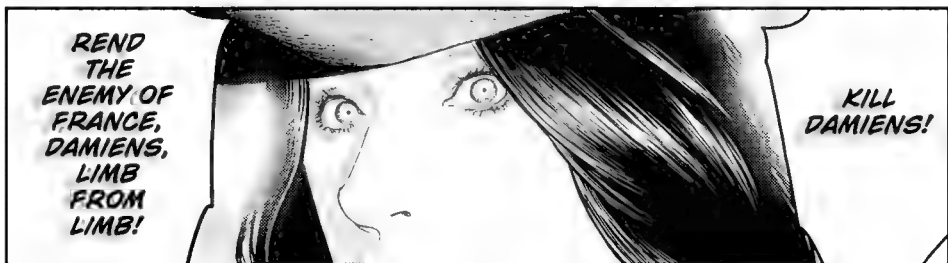






"...AND THE
MORE THE
PEOPLE WILL
RELISH THE
SPECTACLE.
THUS, THEY
BECOME
CLOSER TO
GOD BY WAY
OF HIS
MAJESTY,
OUR KING."

"THE MORE
PROTRACTED
THE
EXECUTION,
THE MORE
THE DEMON
WILL
SUFFER..."



REND
THE
ENEMY OF
FRANCE,
DAMIENS,
LIMB
FROM
LIMB!

KILL
DAMIENS!



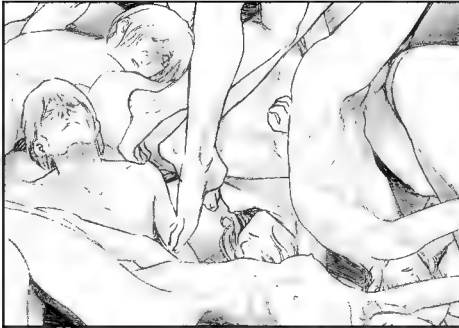
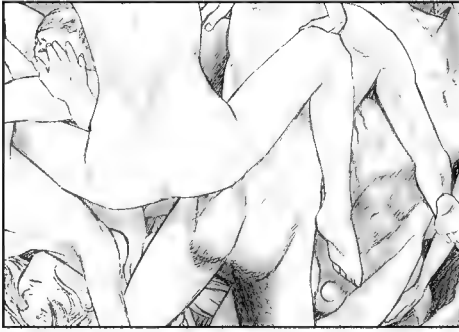
LONG
LIVE
FRANCE!

LONG
LIVE
HIS
MAJESTY
THE
KING.

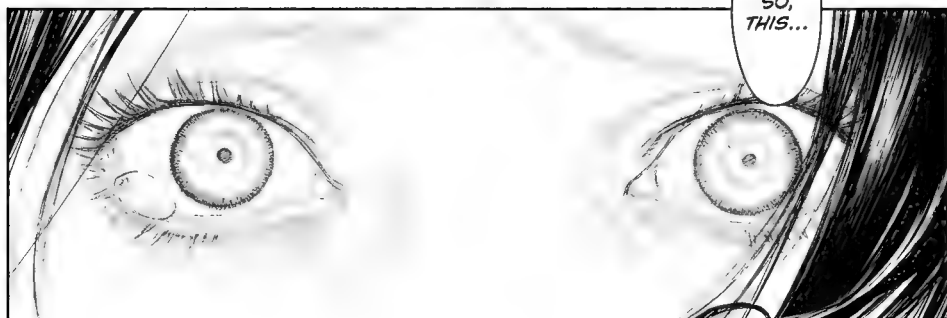
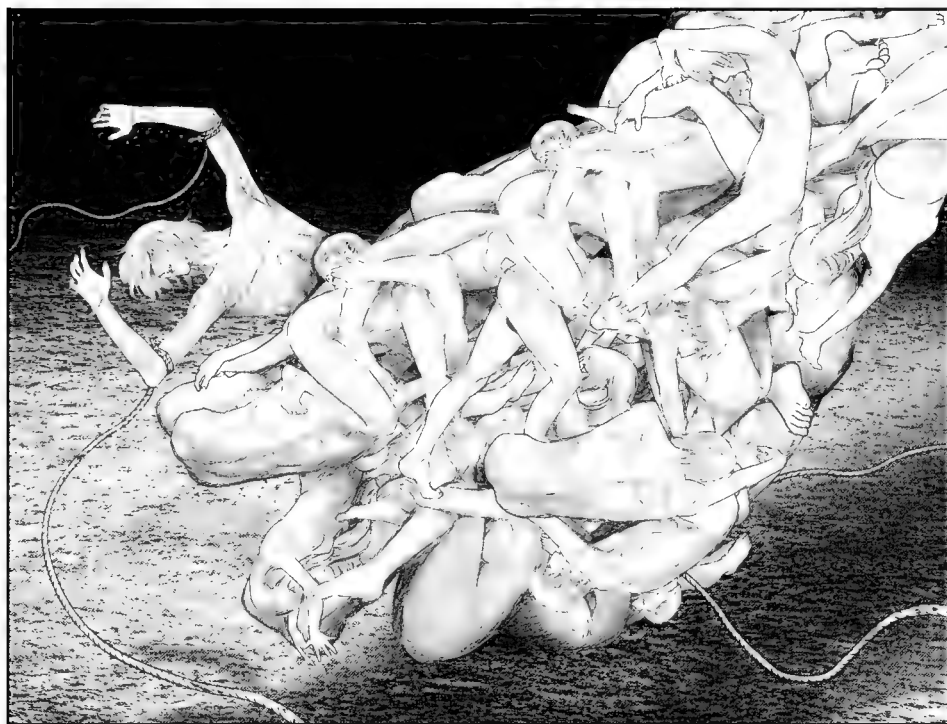
**"...SHALL
BE SHARED
WITH ALL THE
GREATNESS
OF OUR
KINGDOM
OF FRANCE!
THIS IS A
FESTIVAL OF
CELEBRATION!"**

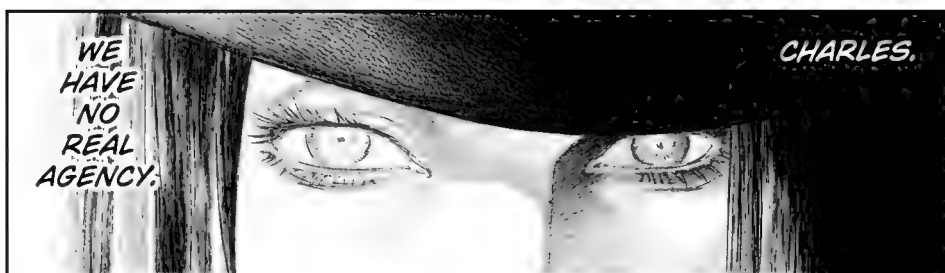
**"FOR
THIS EVE,
AT THIS
SITE OF
EXECUTION..."**







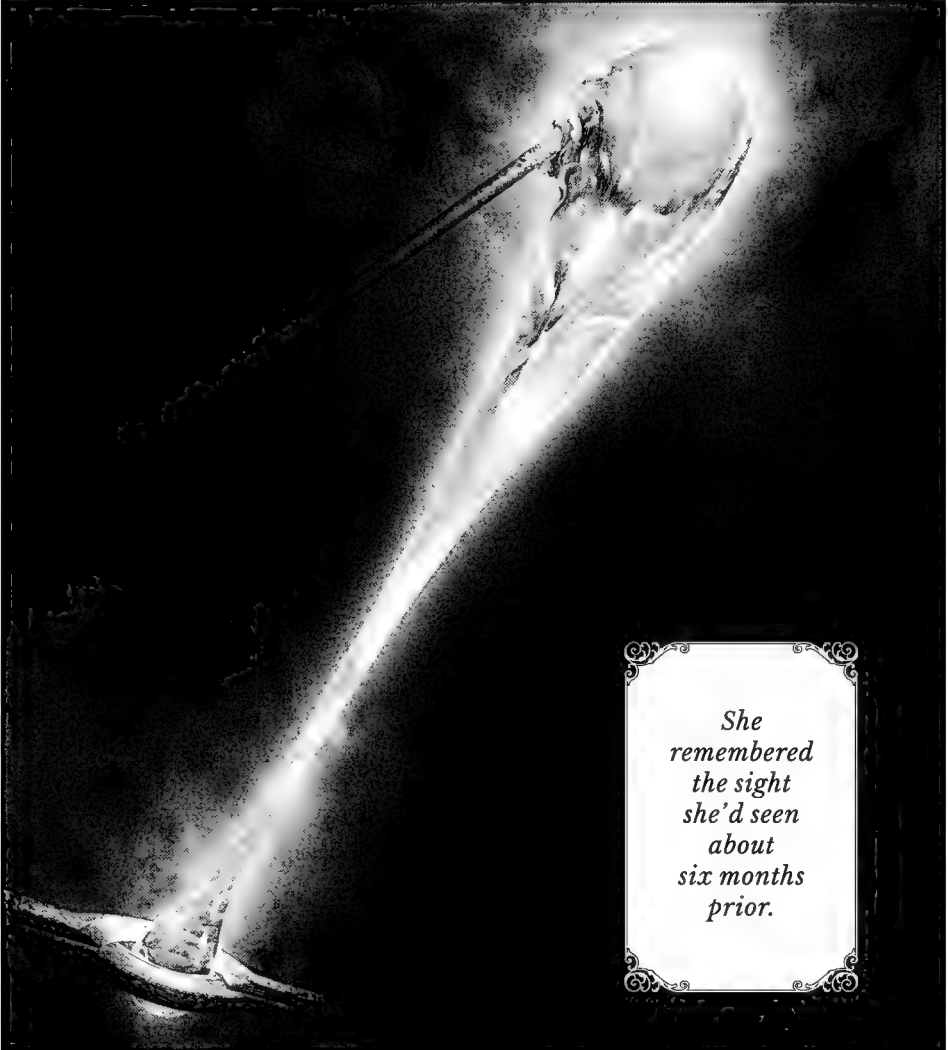
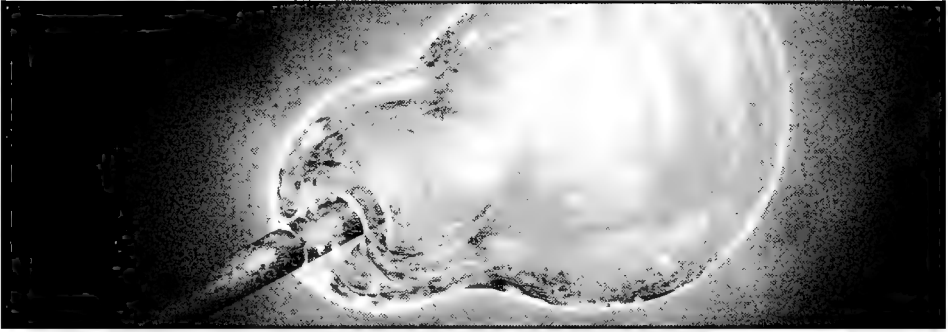






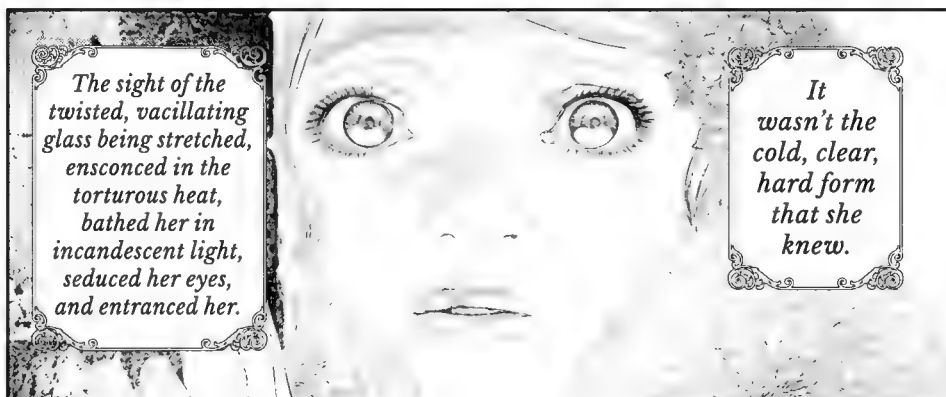
...ON
THE BODY
OF HIS
ROYAL
MAJESTY.

FOR
ALL OF
US BORN
IN FRANCE
ARE
NOTHING
MORE
THAN A
SINGLE
STRAND
OF
HAIR...



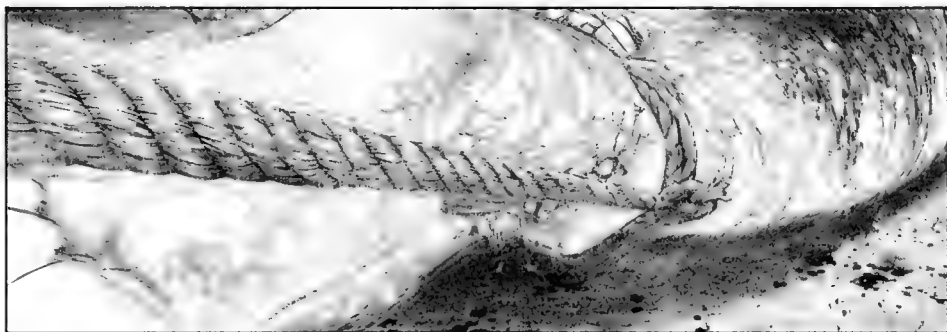
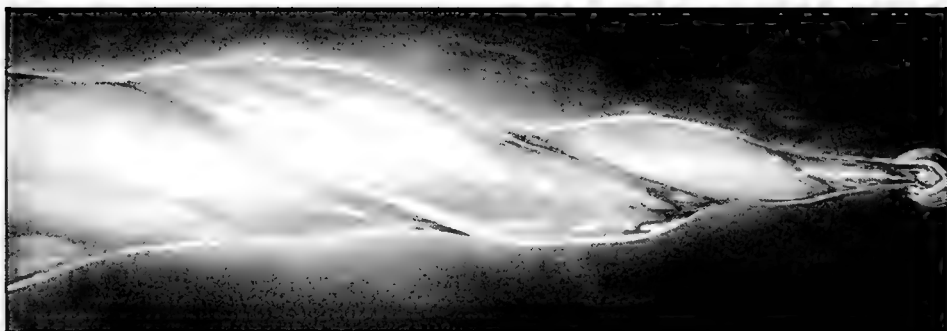
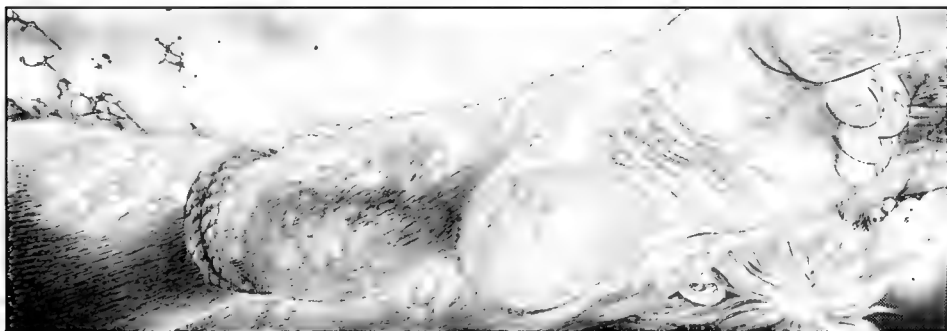
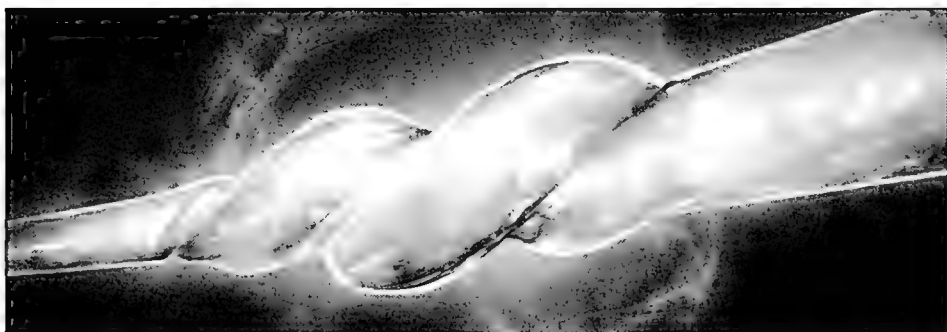


*At the foot of
Pont Notre-Dame,
it was a particular
scene from a glass
blower's workshop
that she had
passed alongside
her mother.*



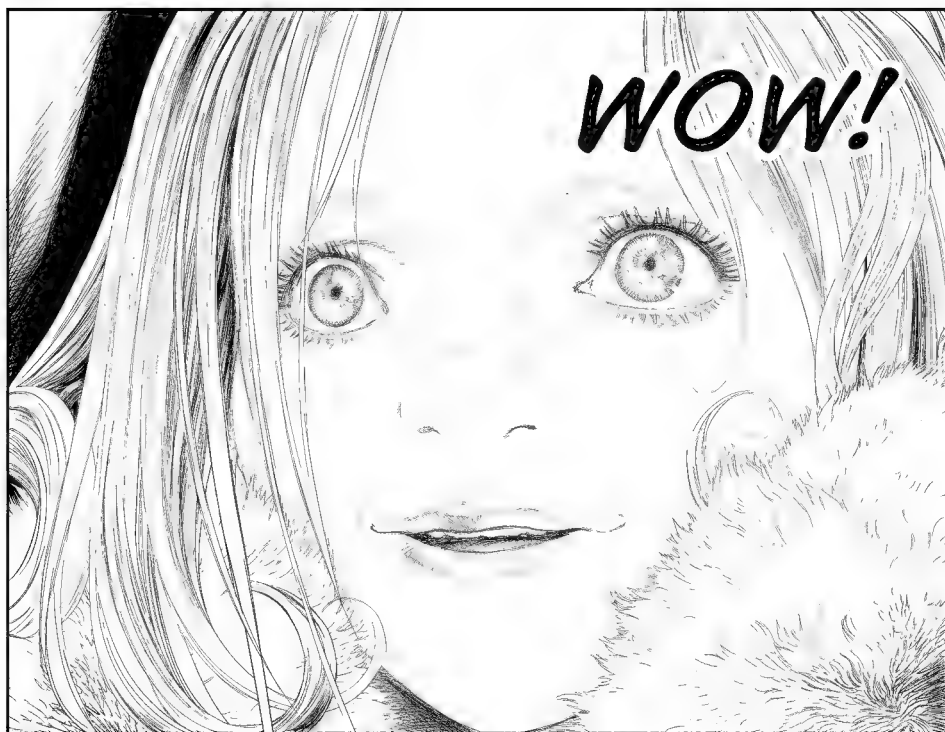
*The sight of the
twisted, vacillating
glass being stretched,
ensconced in the
torturous heat,
bathed her in
incandescent light,
seduced her eyes,
and entranced her.*

*It
wasn't the
cold, clear,
hard form
that she
knew.*



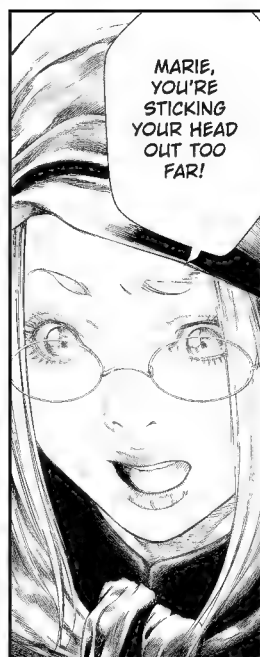


n°34 Love atop the Block



WE'RE TRYING TO PRETEND WE'RE ASSISTANTS TO THIS CONFESSOR HERE.

IF YOU WIND UP GETTING US OUTED, THEN WE'LL LOSE OUR PREMIER SEATS!



MARIE, YOU'RE STICKING YOUR HEAD OUT TOO FAR!



SEEMS QUITE STRANGE... SINCE IT'S STARTED, THE HORSES HAVE BEEN MOVING OUT AND THEN BACK IN, ONE AT A TIME.

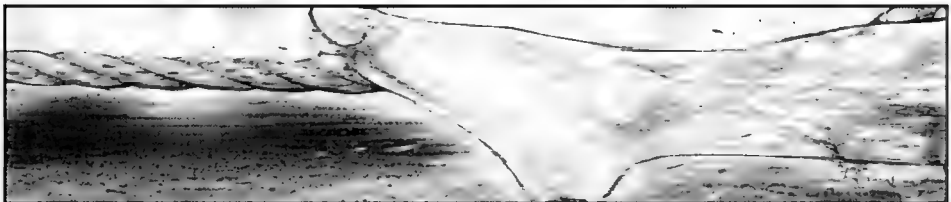
I FIGURED THAT FOR A QUARTERING, ALL FOUR HORSES RAN IN SEPARATE DIRECTIONS AT FULL SPEED SIMULTANEOUSLY. BUT, IT'S REALLY QUITE DIFFERENT.

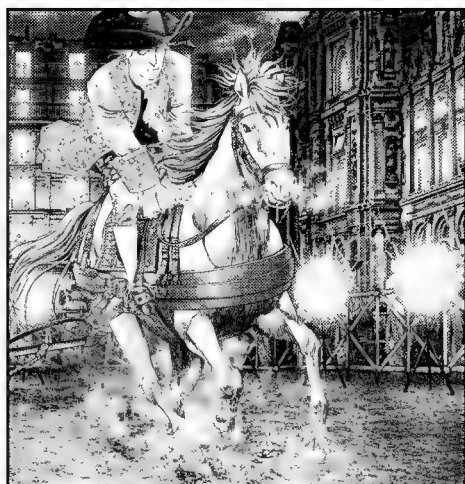
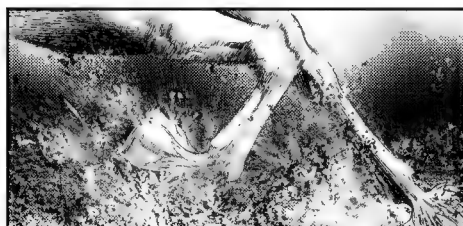
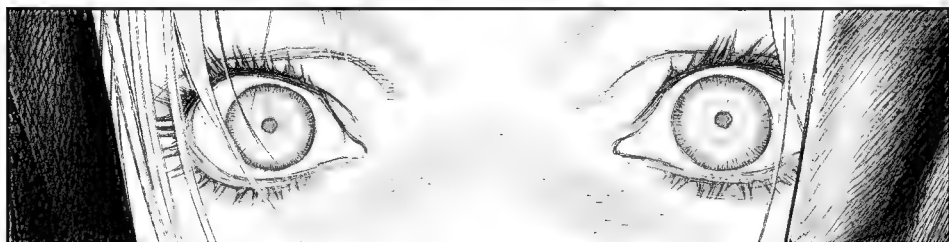


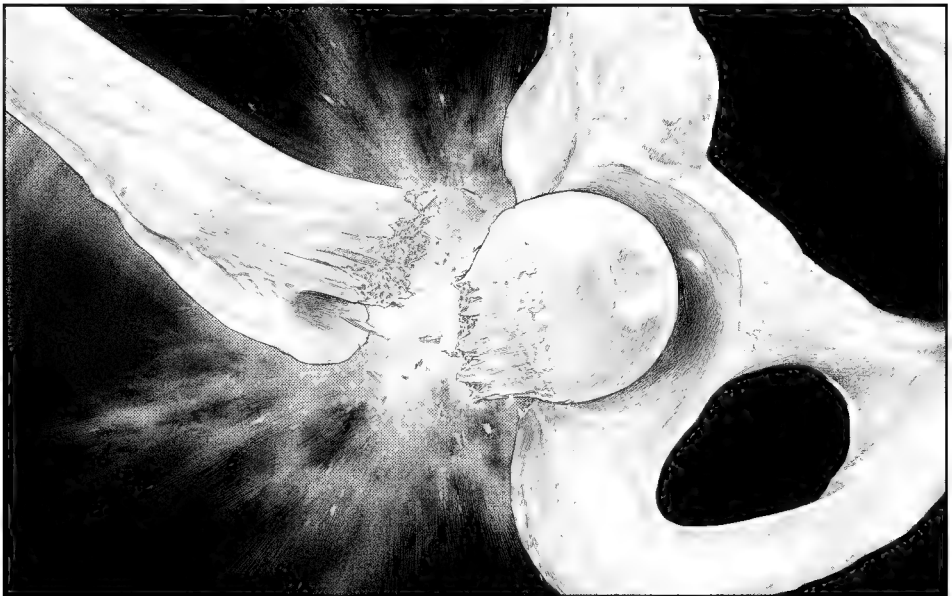
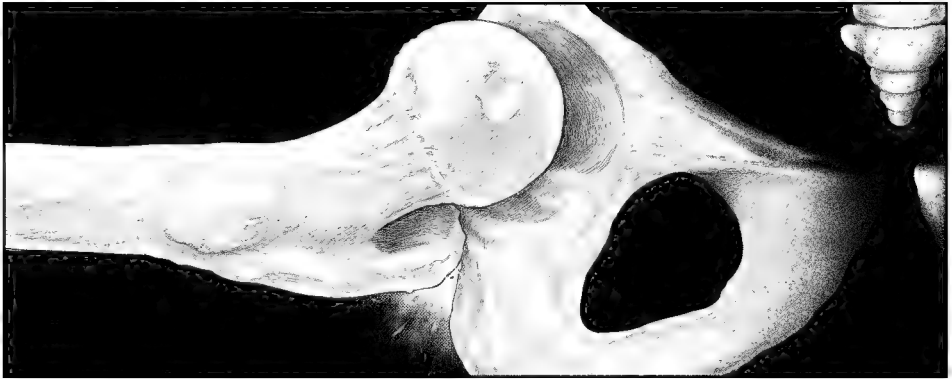
CONTINUE ALL THE WAY AROUND AND BRING THE HORSE BACK TO THE STARTING POINT!

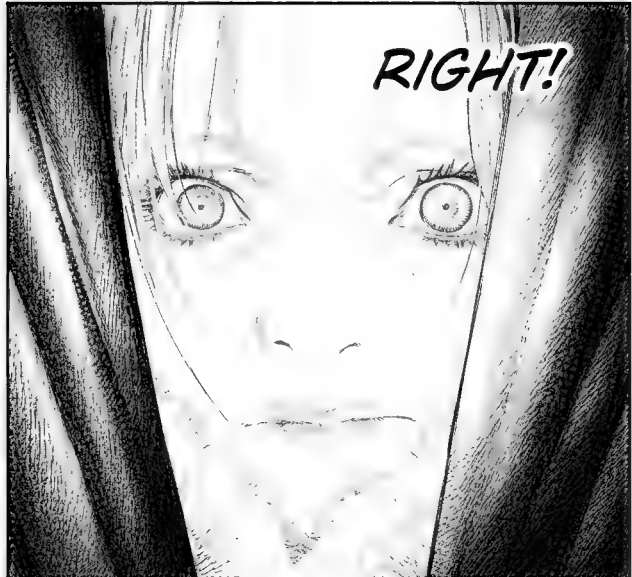
RIGHT-LEG HORSE, FOLLOW THE LEFT LEG!

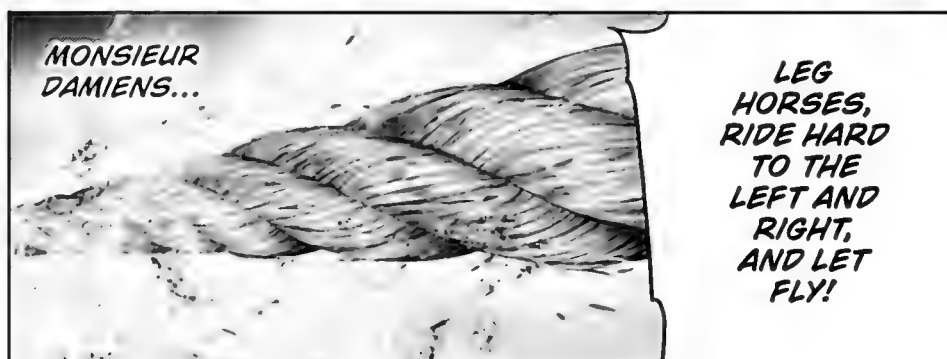
PERFORM A WIDE TURN AND A HARD STRAIGHT PULL TO THE UPPER BODY!



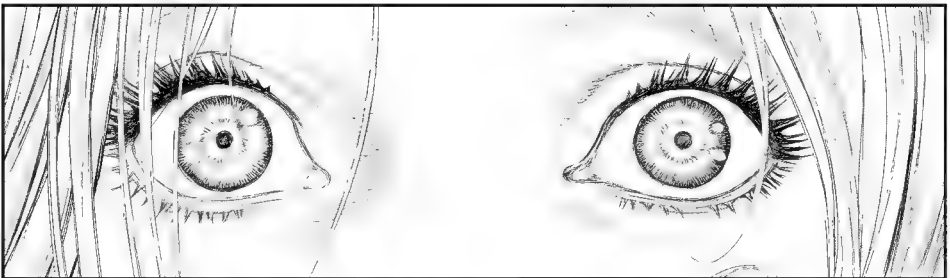
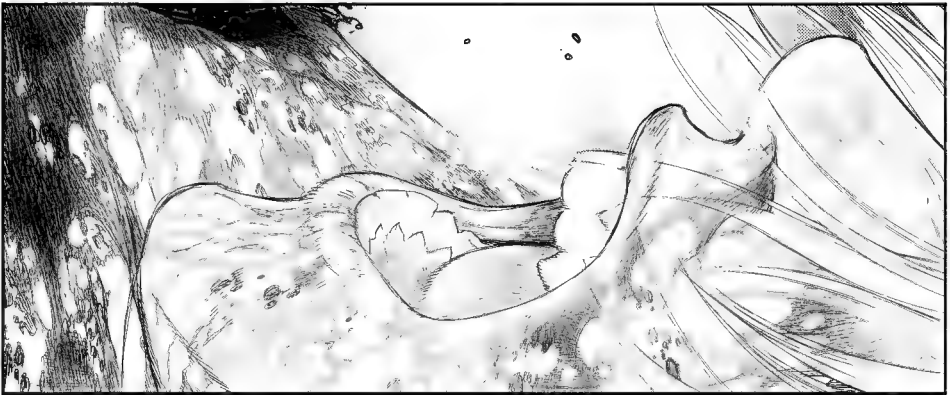




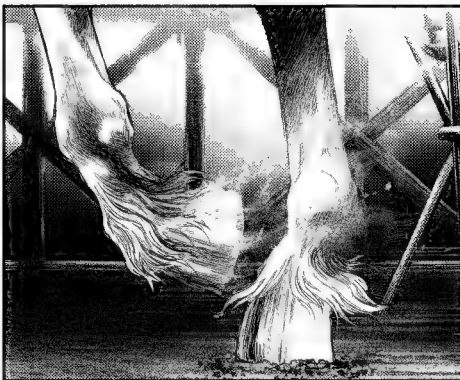
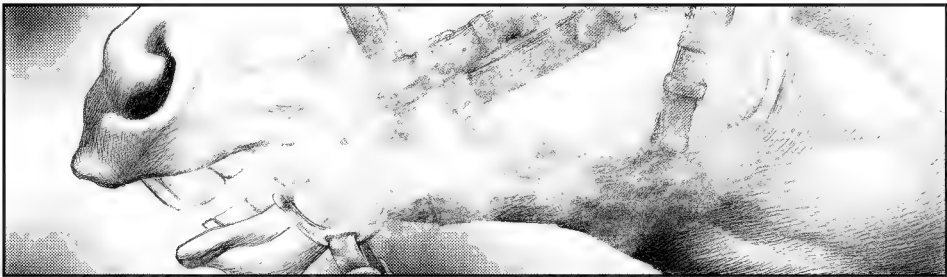
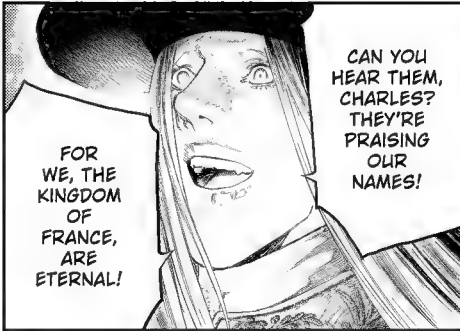














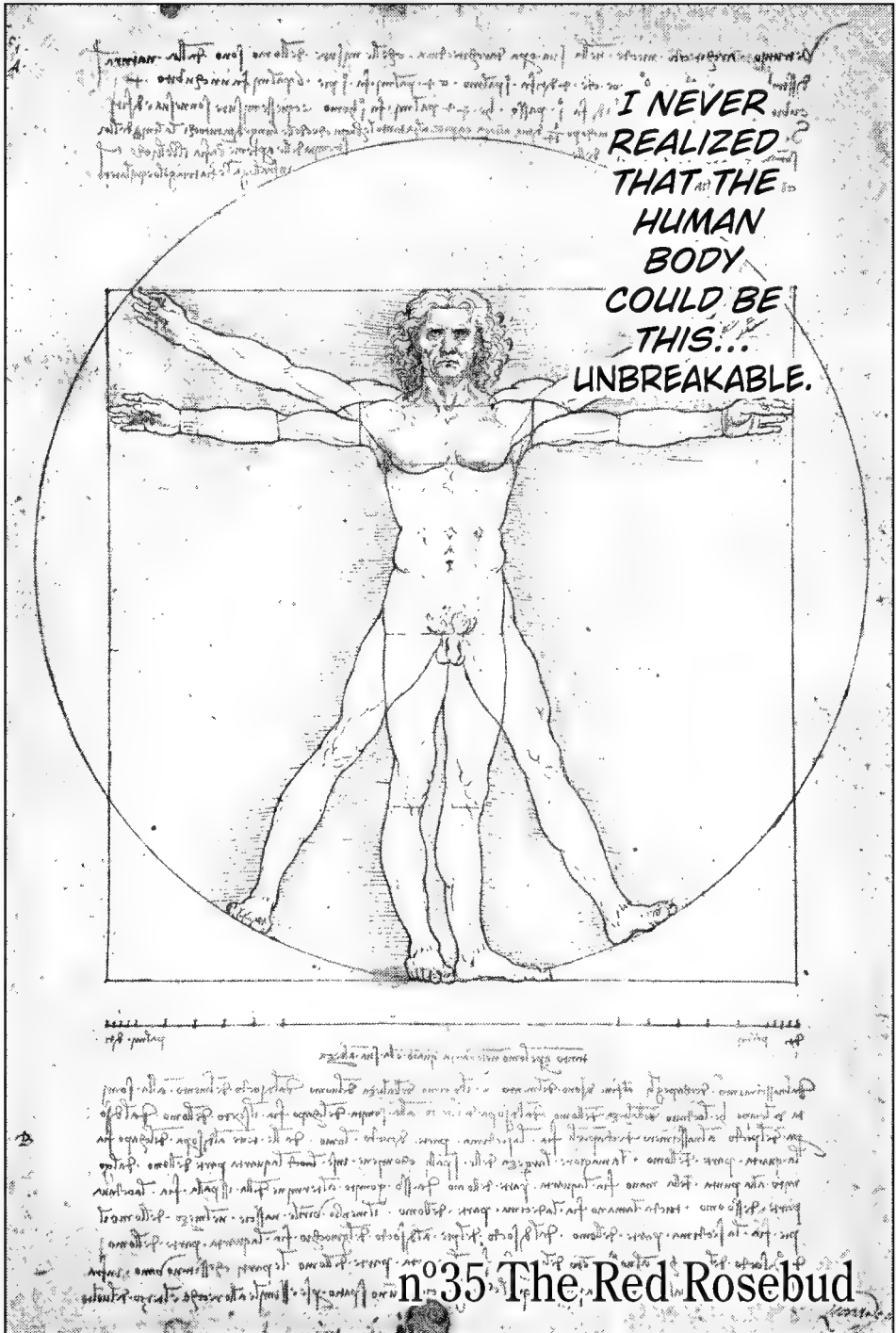




**THIS
IS SO
EXCITING.**



**THE
PART
WHERE
THINGS
BREAK
IS
ALWAYS
THE
BEST.**

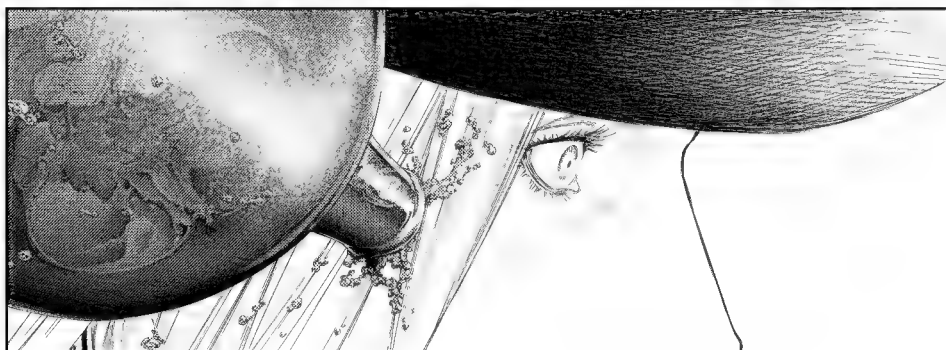


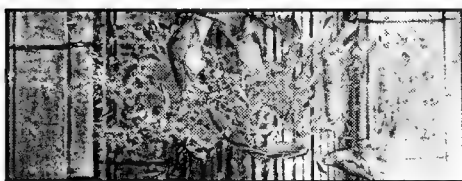


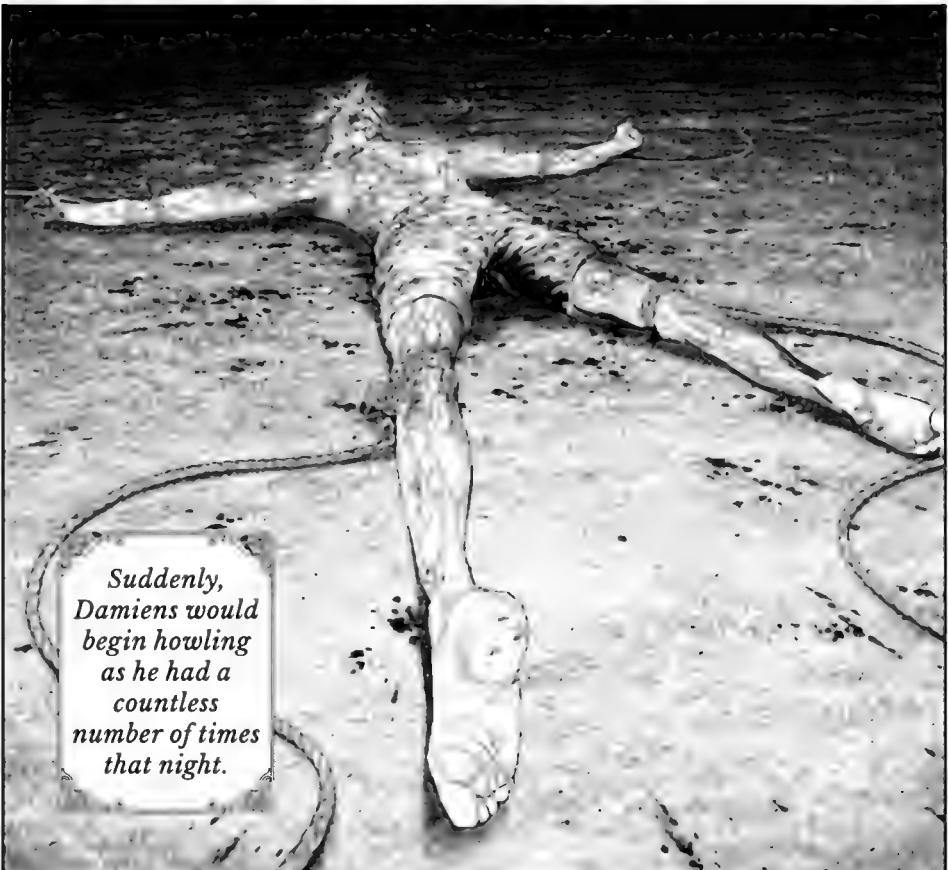
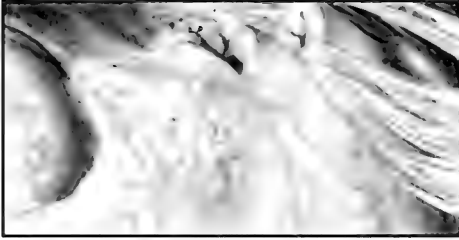
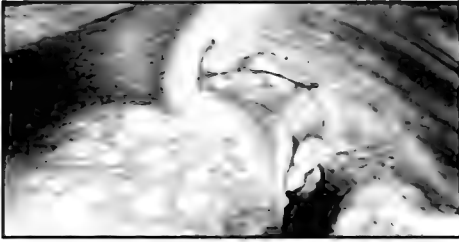
CHARLES,
YOU HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING!

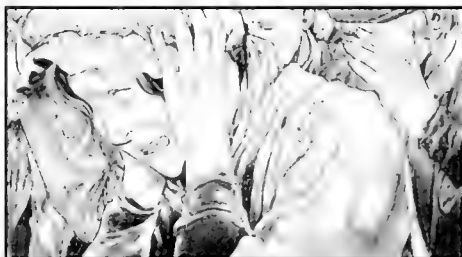
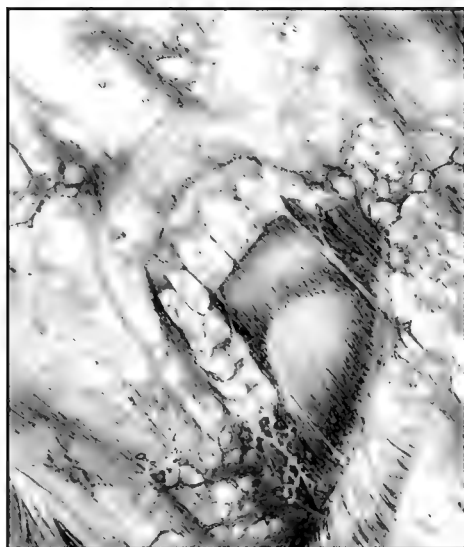
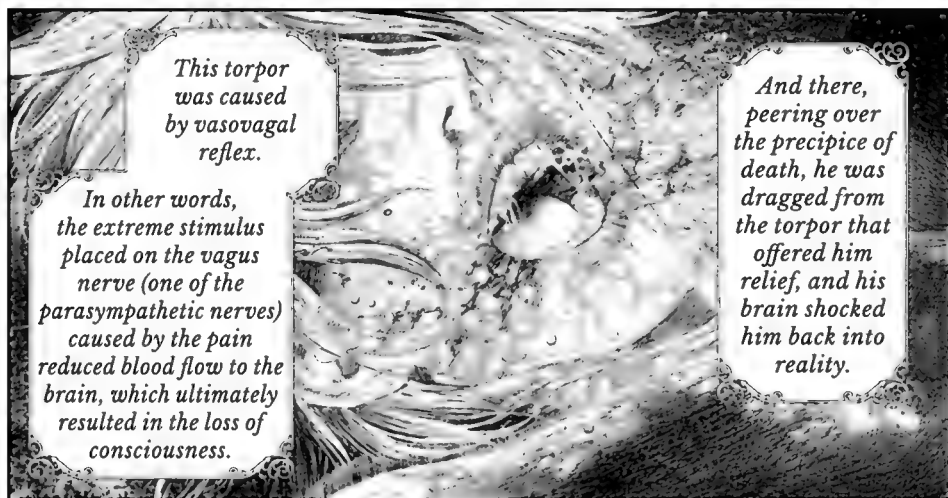


BUT
IF THE
HORSES
ARE
UNABLE
TO
MOVE...

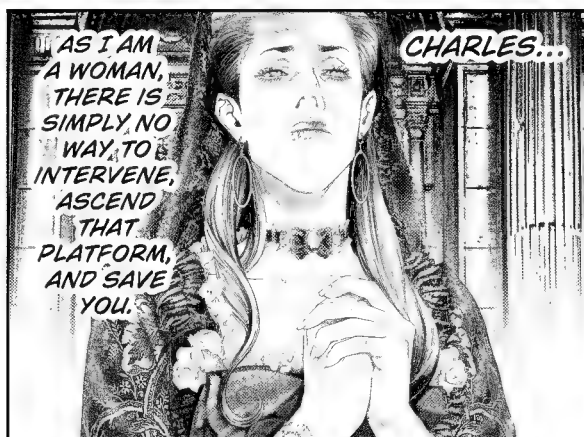
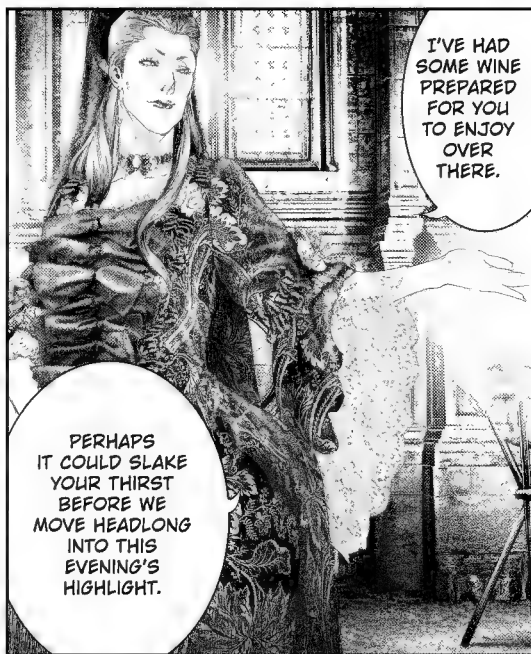
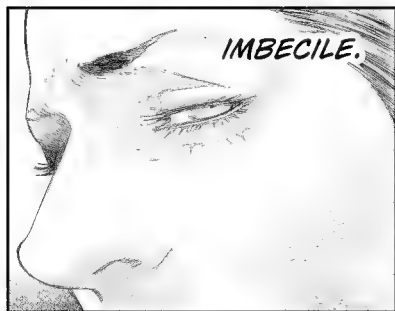




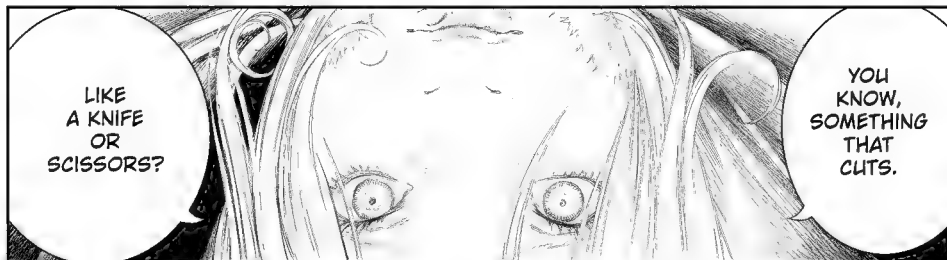


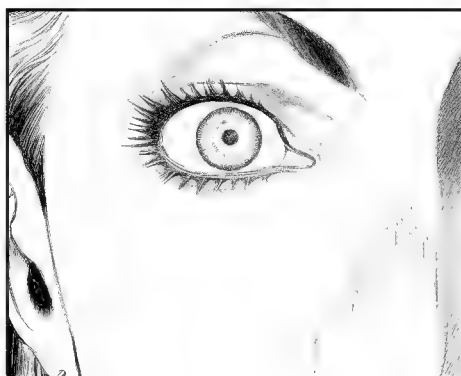
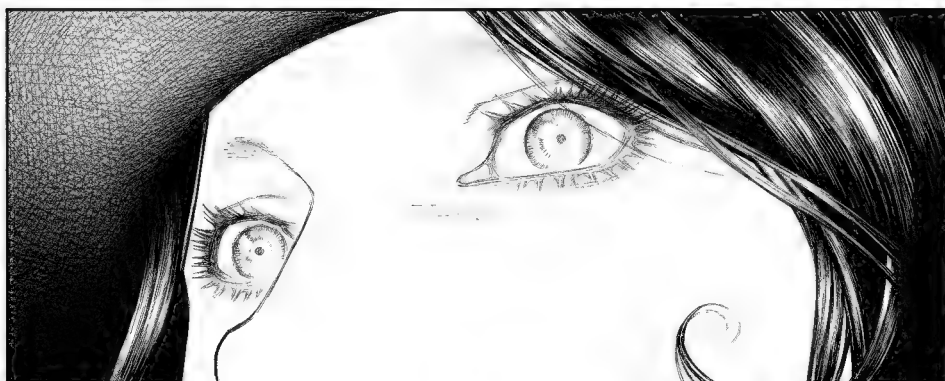




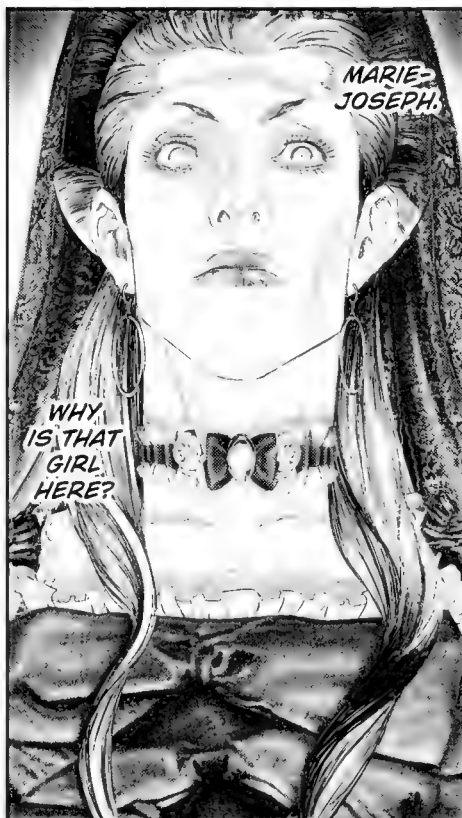
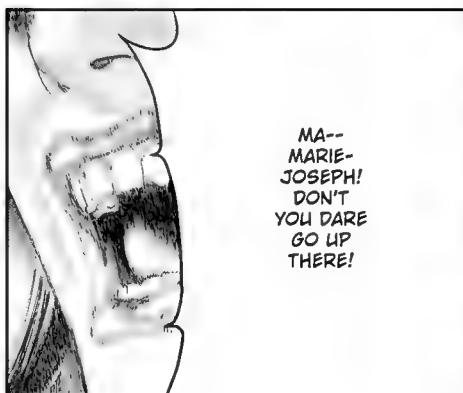


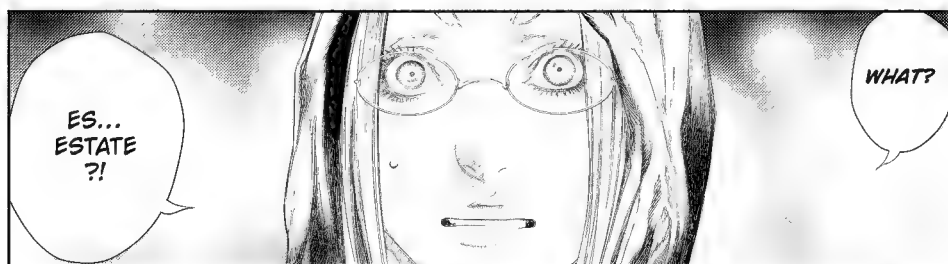


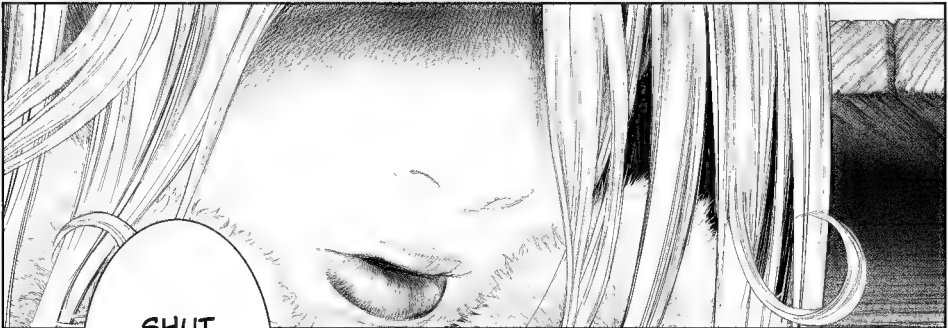


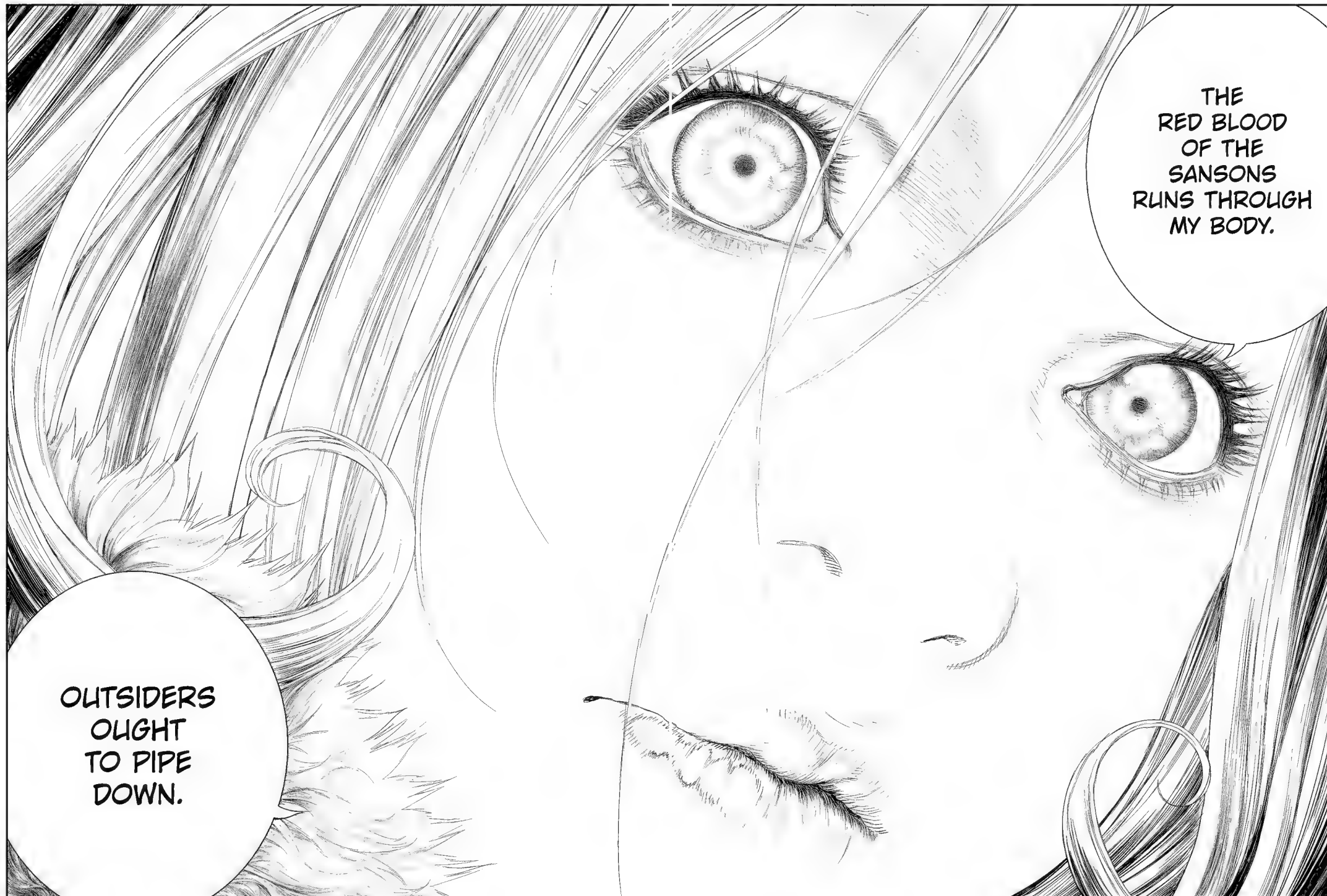








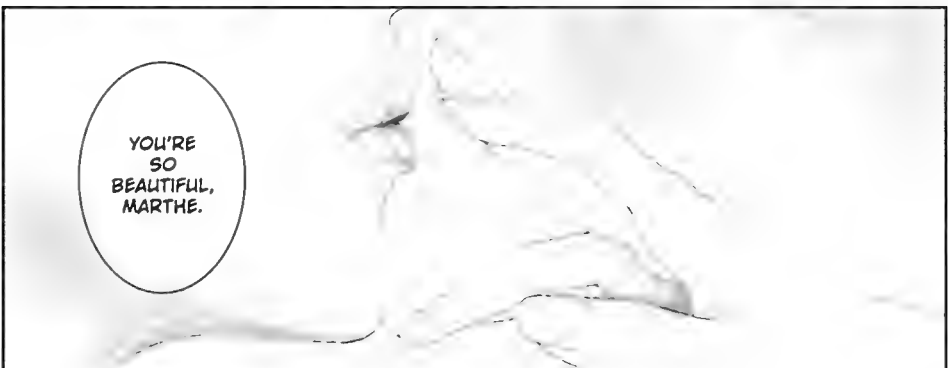
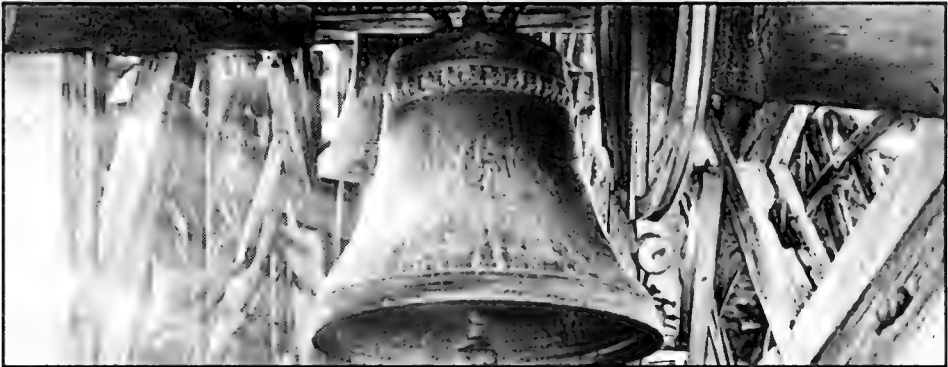
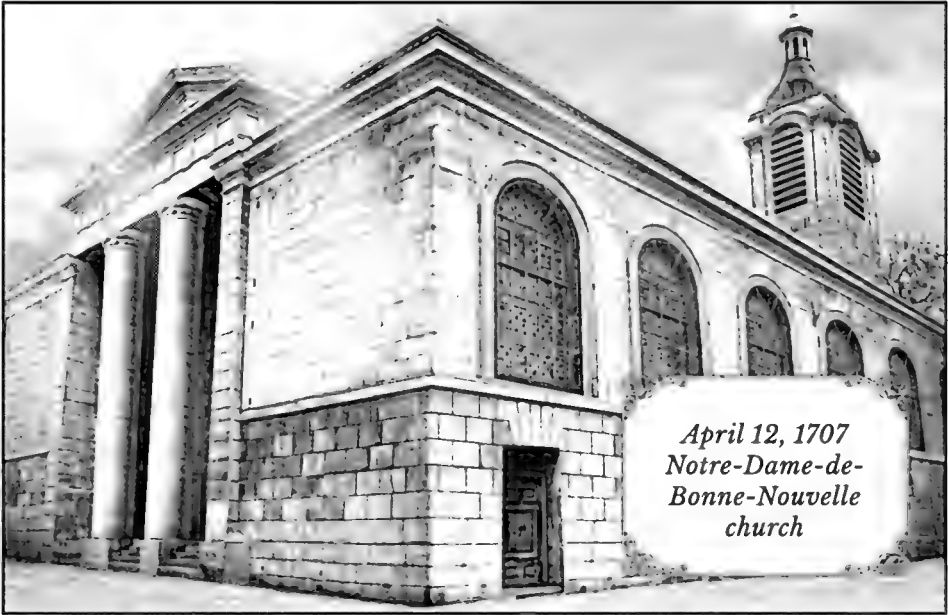




OUTSIDERS
OUGHT
TO PIPE
DOWN.

THE
RED BLOOD
OF THE
SANSONS
RUNS THROUGH
MY BODY.







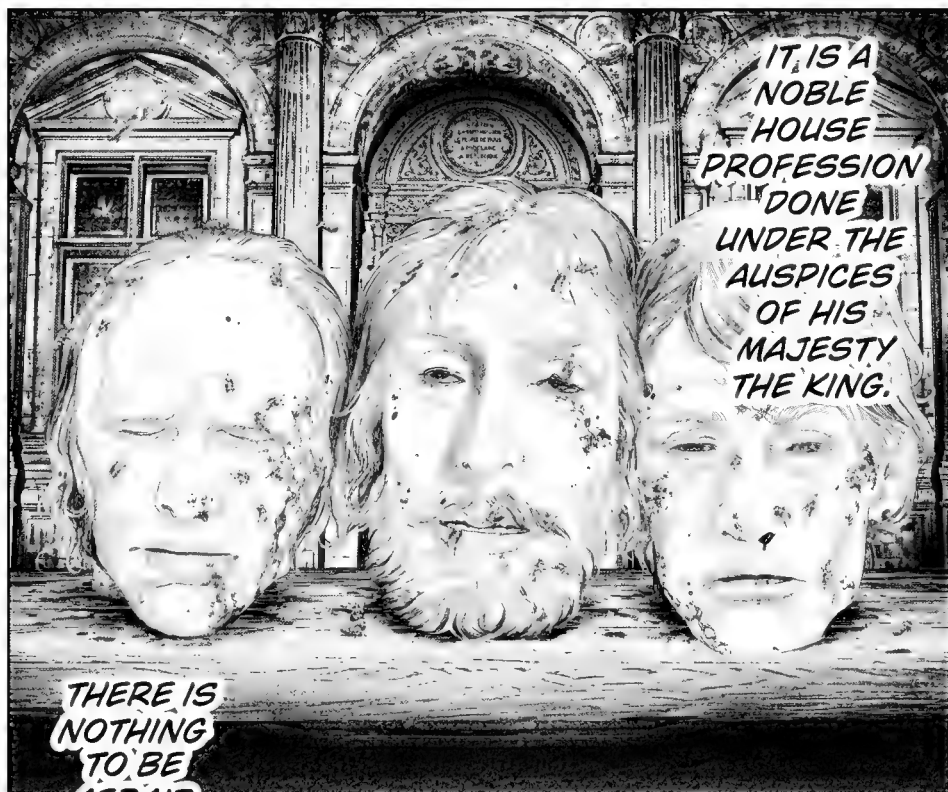
WELCOME
TO
HOUSE
SANSON.

WE'LL
ALWAYS BE
TOGETHER
FROM
HERE
ON.

YES,
SISTER.

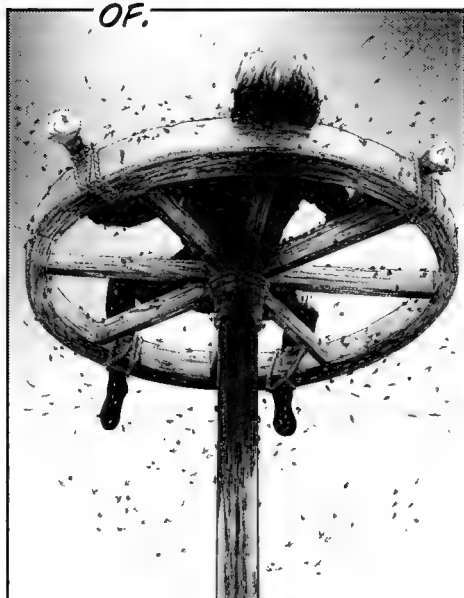
n°36 The Golden Rule
of Kinship

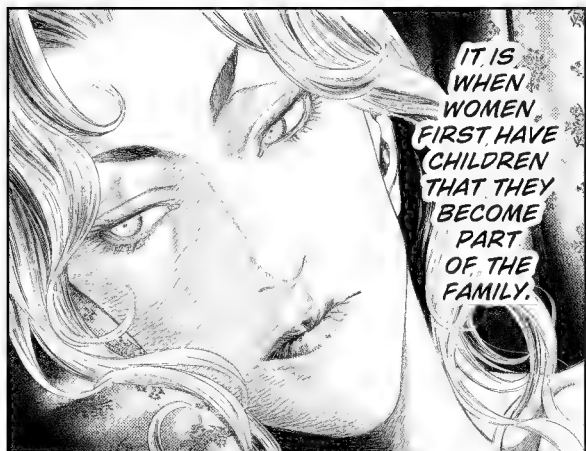
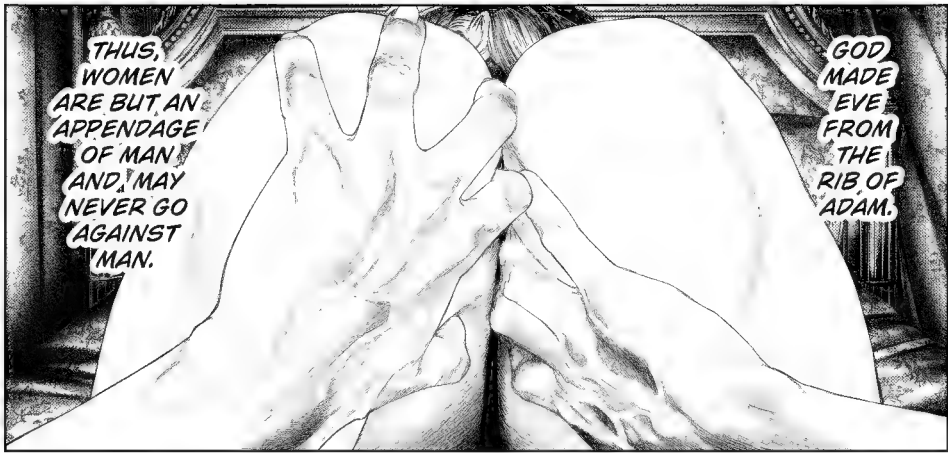




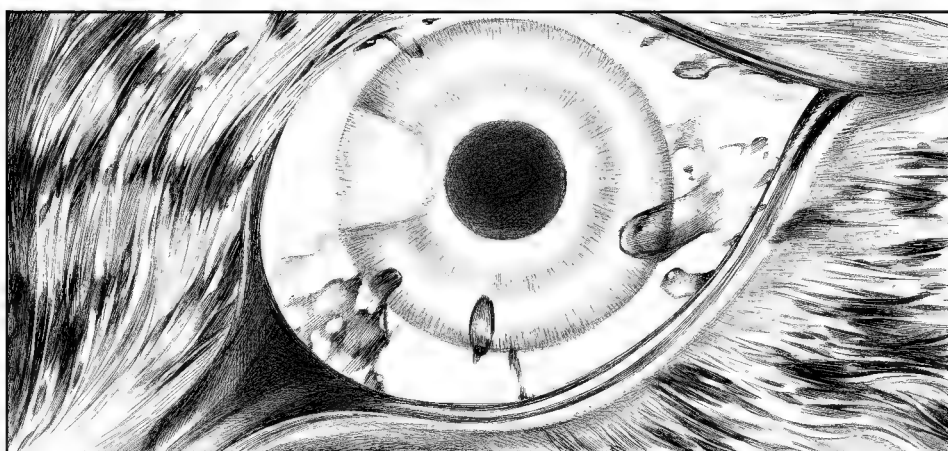
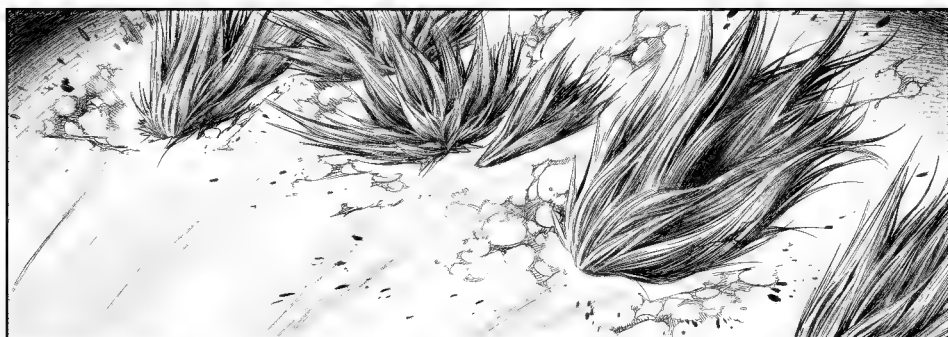
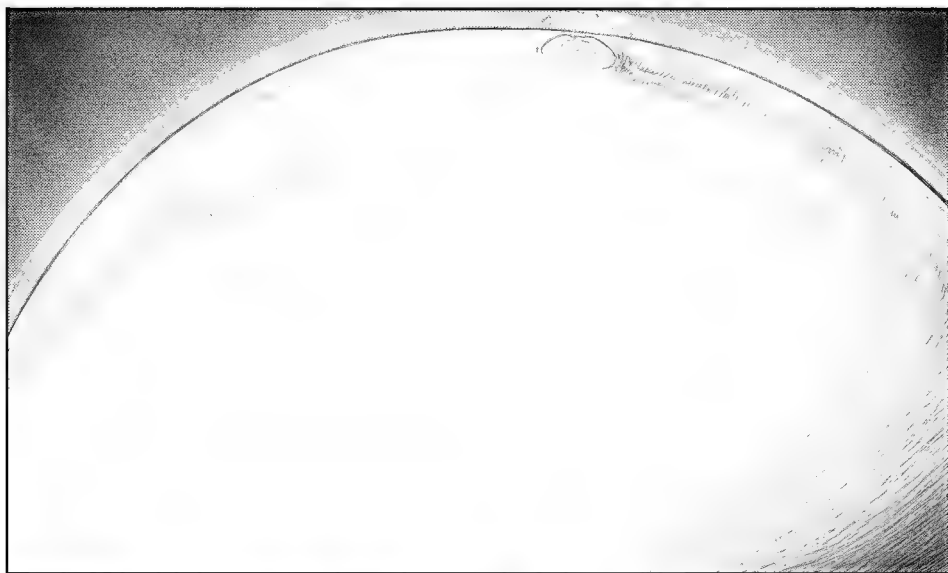
IT IS A
NOBLE
HOUSE
PROFESSION
DONE
UNDER THE
AUSPICES
OF HIS
MAJESTY
THE KING.

THERE IS
NOTHING
TO BE
AFRAID
OF.



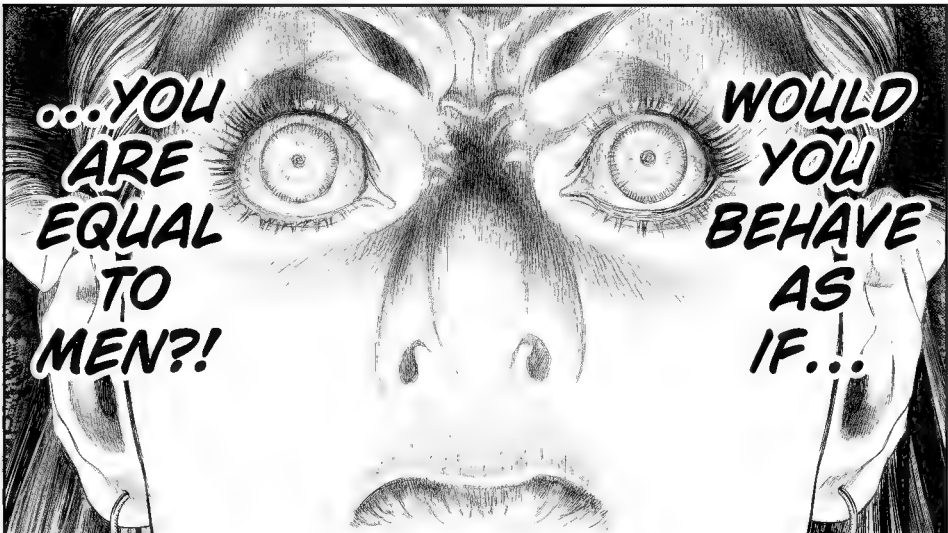
















OUR
HOUSE
SANSON,
IN FOUR
GENERATIONS,
HAS NEVER
SEEN
A GIRL
ASCEND THE
BLOCK!

PULL
HER DOWN
OR THERE WILL
BE NO EXCUSE
WE CAN OFFER
FOR THE INSULT
TO OUR
ANCESTORS
OF SUCH A
TRANSGRESSION!



WHAT
ON EARTH
ARE YOU
DOING?!

REMOVE
MARIE-
JOSEPH
FROM
THAT
PLATFORM
AT
ONCE!

Y-
YES,
MADAM!

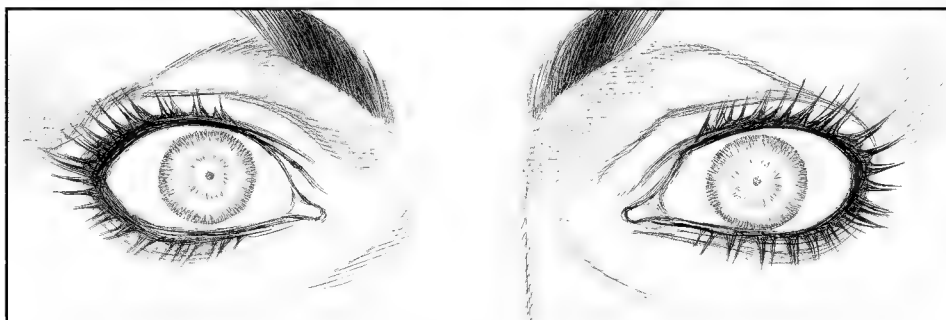


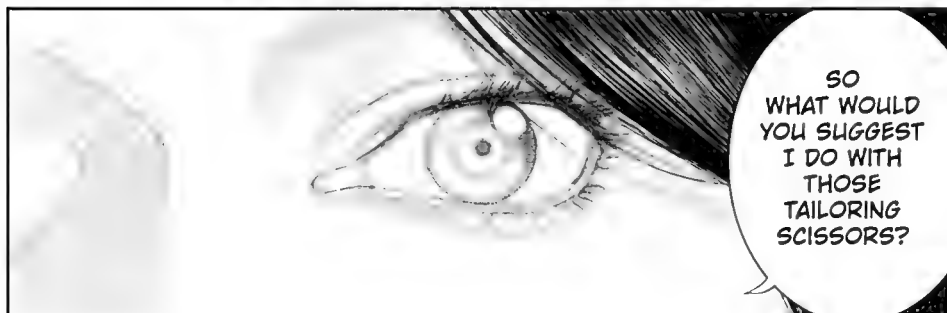
BUT
PLEASE, COME
DOWN FROM
THERE AT ONC--

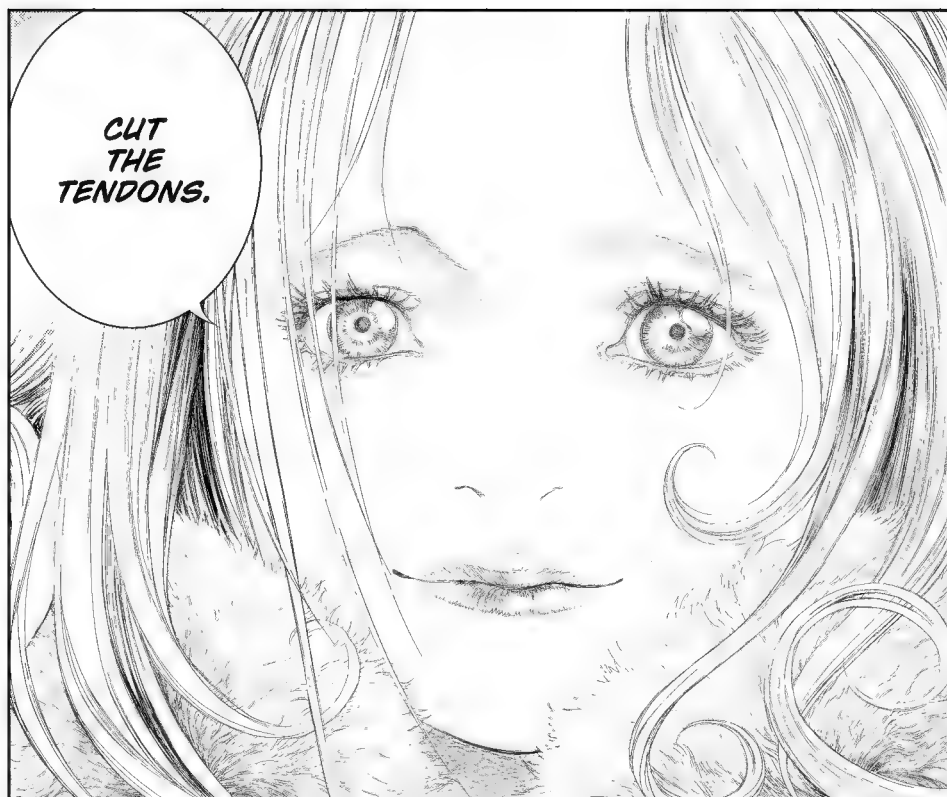
MY
APOLOGIES,
MADEMOISELLE
MARIE!



IT'S
FINE.
DON'T
MOVE.





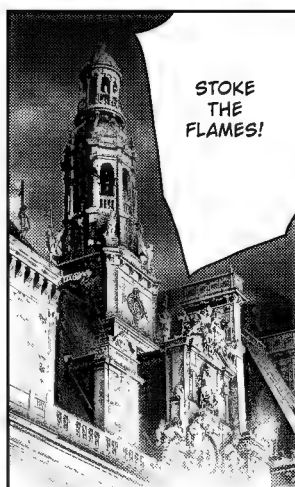


CUT
THE
TENDONS.

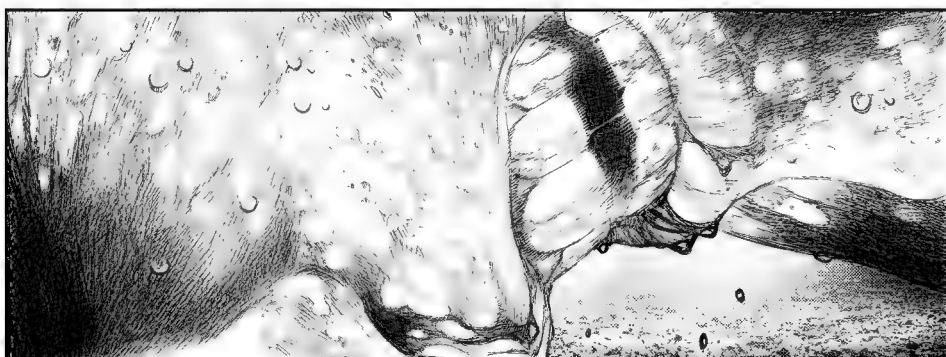


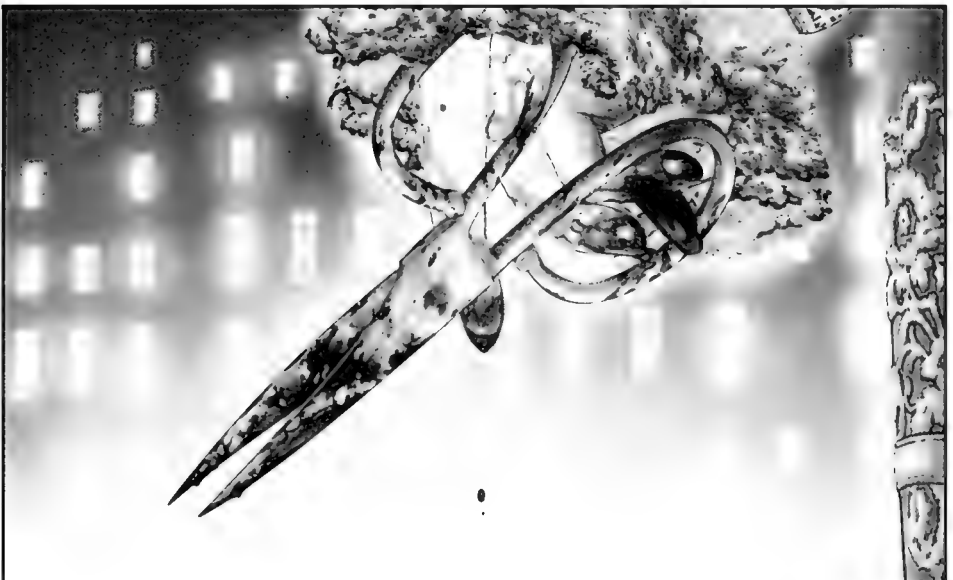
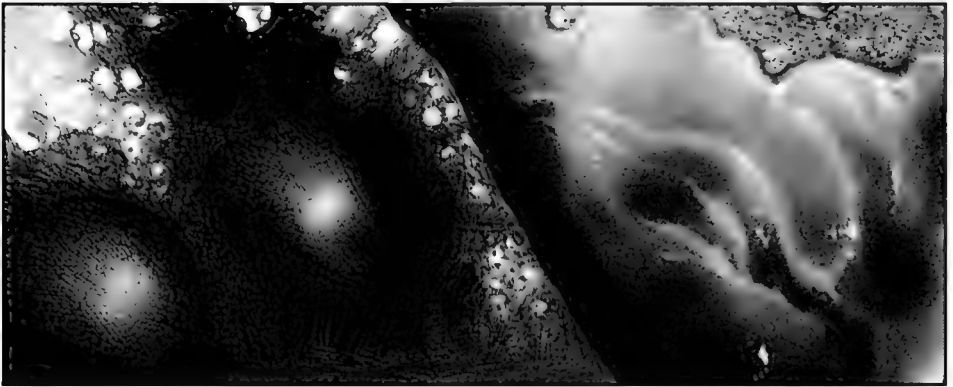
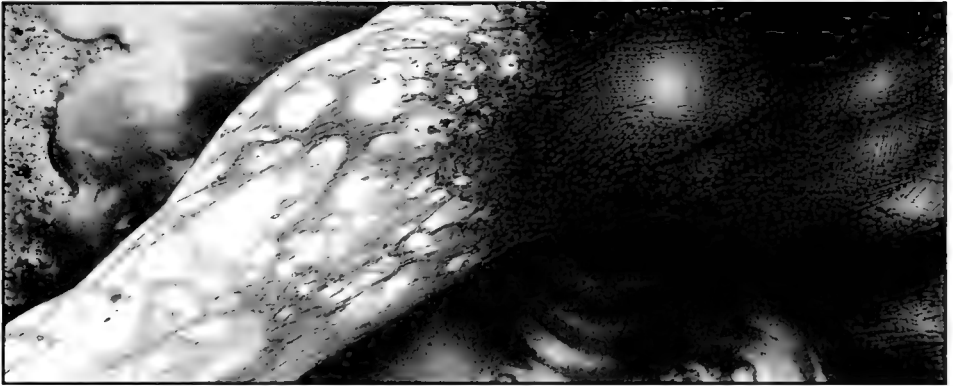
WERE
YOU TO CUT
THE TENDONS,
HIS ARMS AND
LEGS WOULD
EASILY
SEVER.

FOR
IT'S THE
TENDONS
THAT
CONNECT
THE FLESH
TO THE
BONE,
RIGHT?







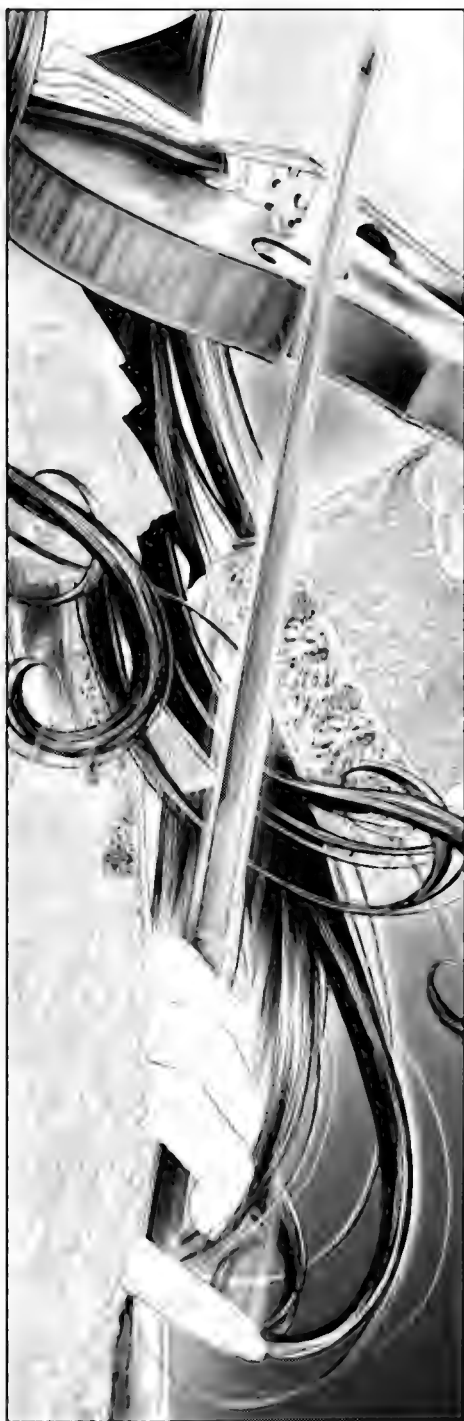


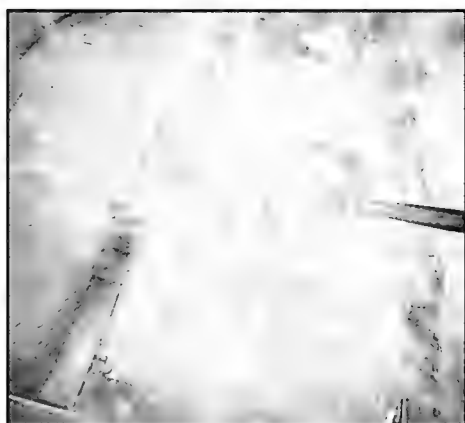


n°37 Moonlight Cantata





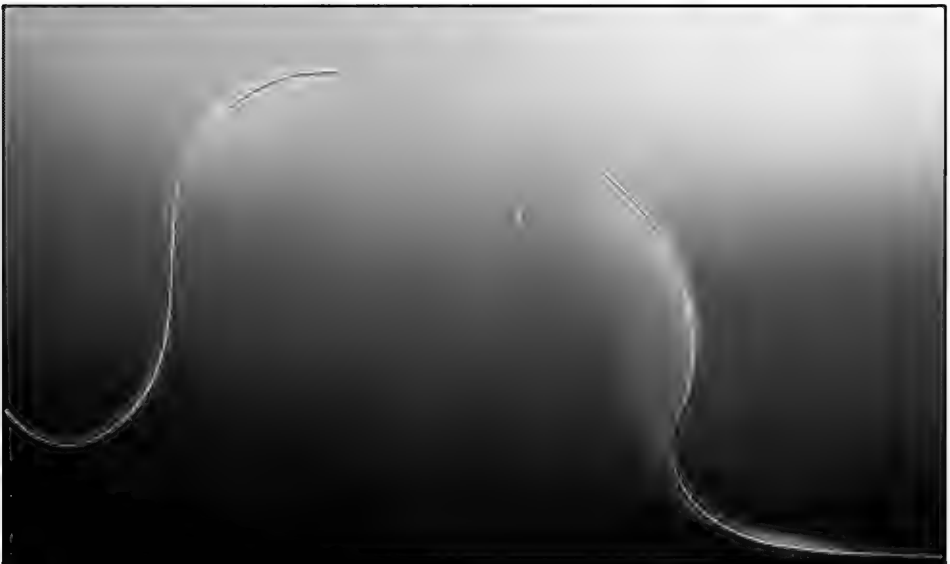
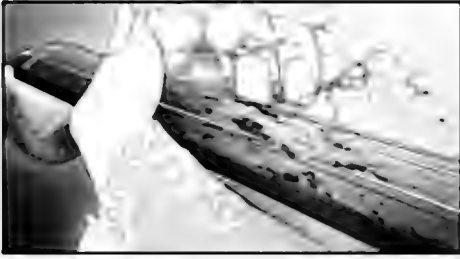




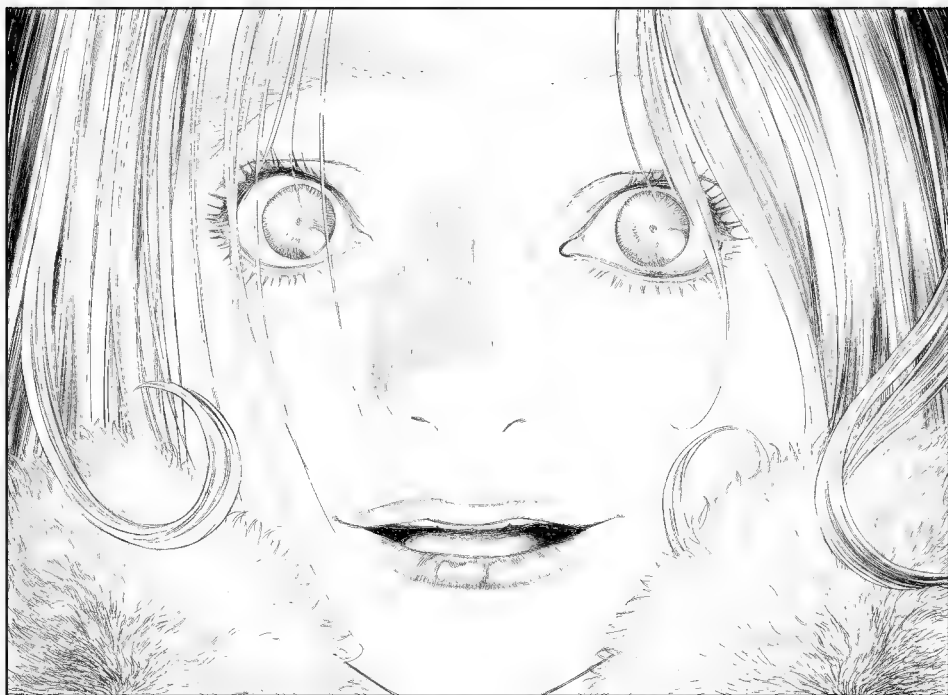


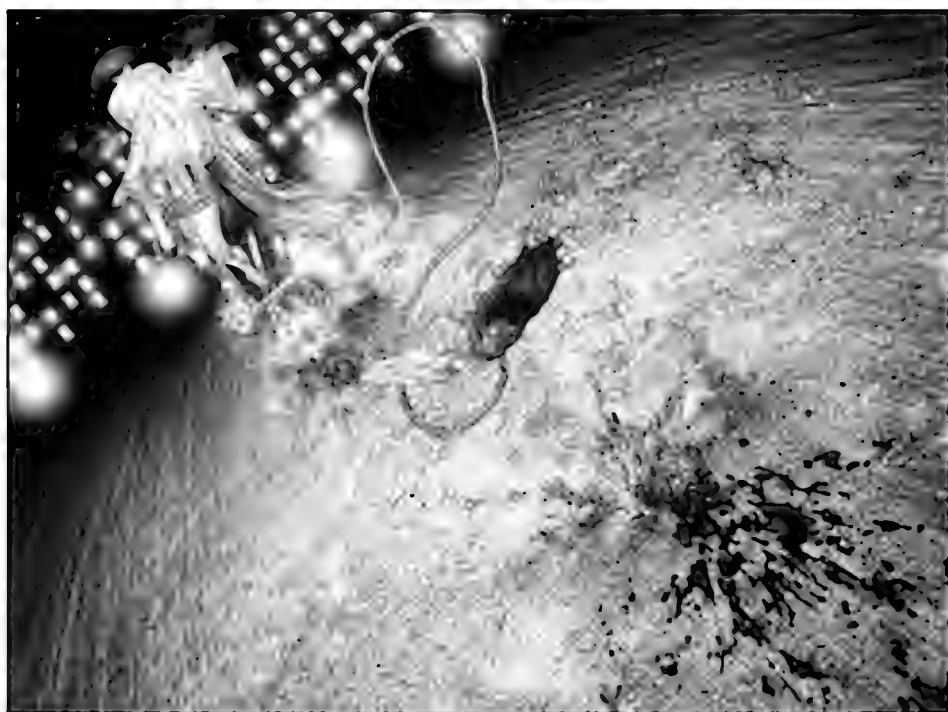
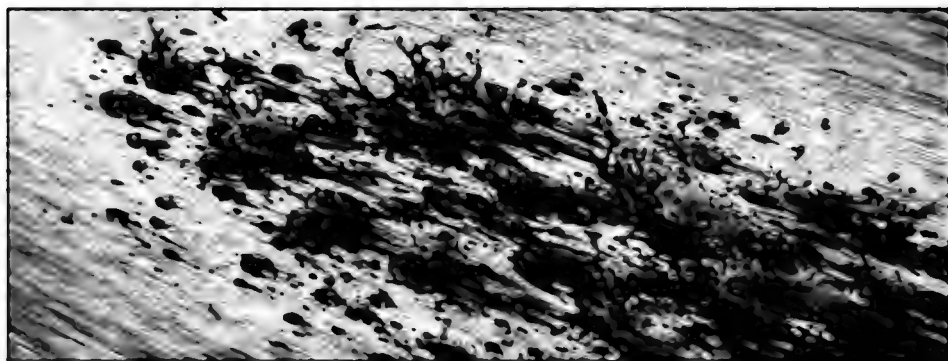


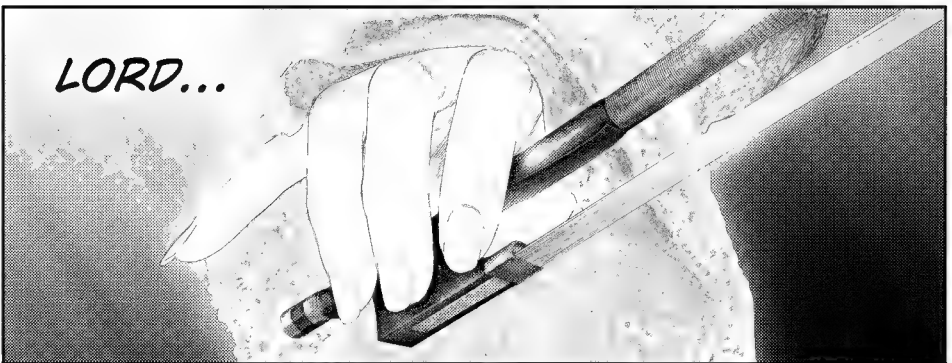


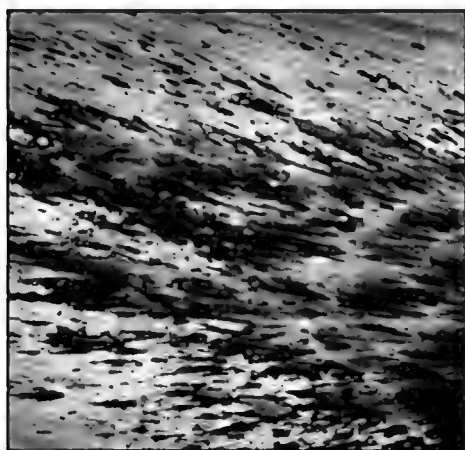


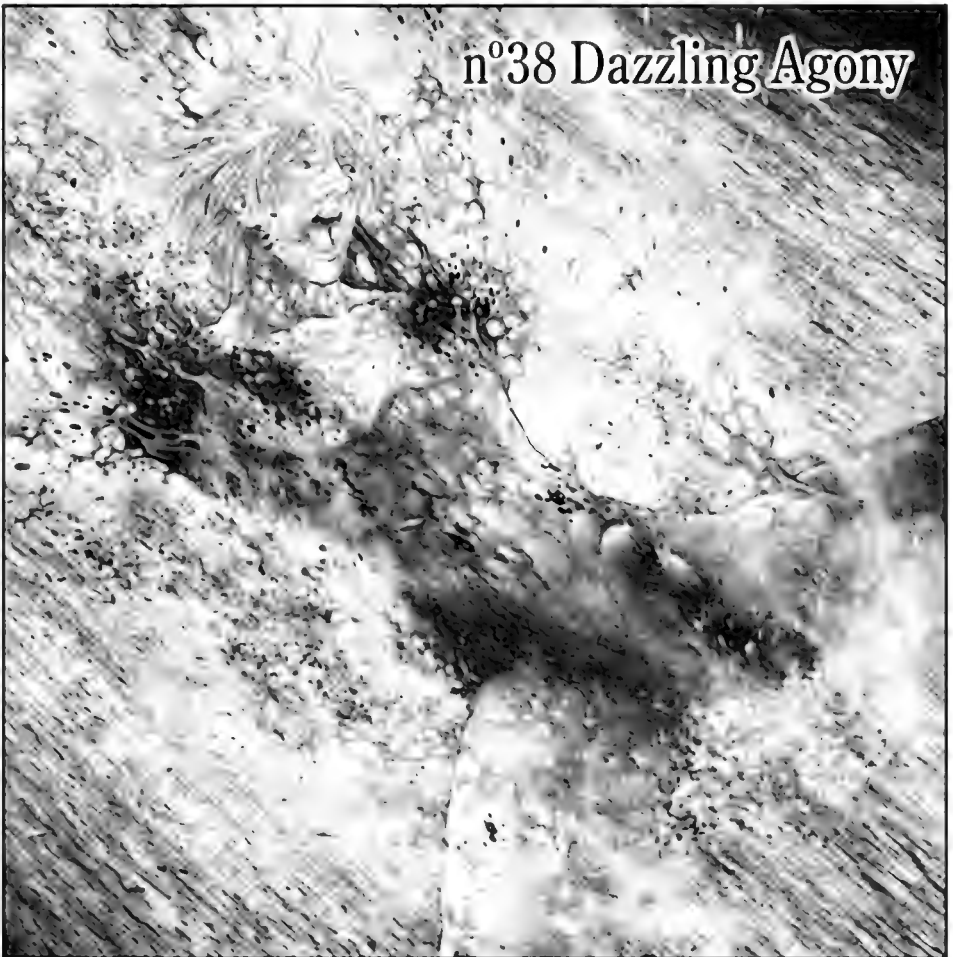


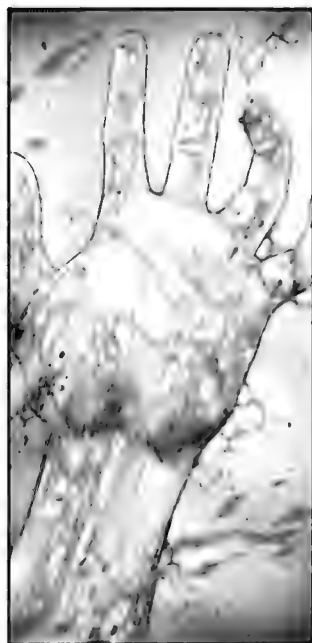
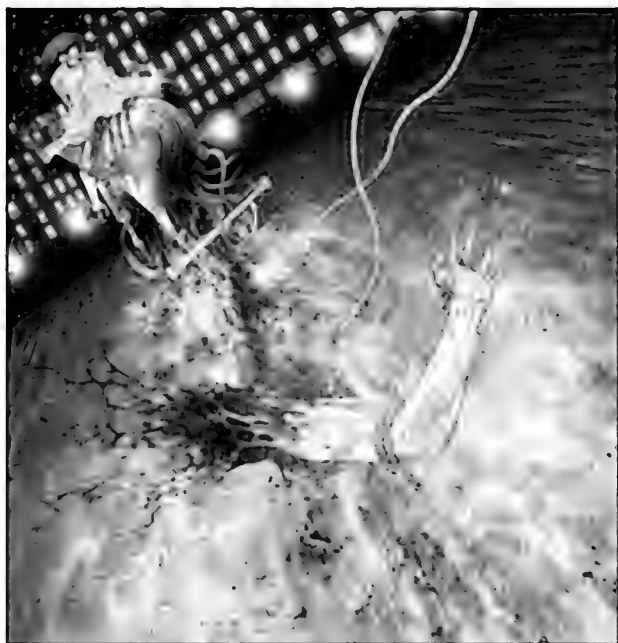




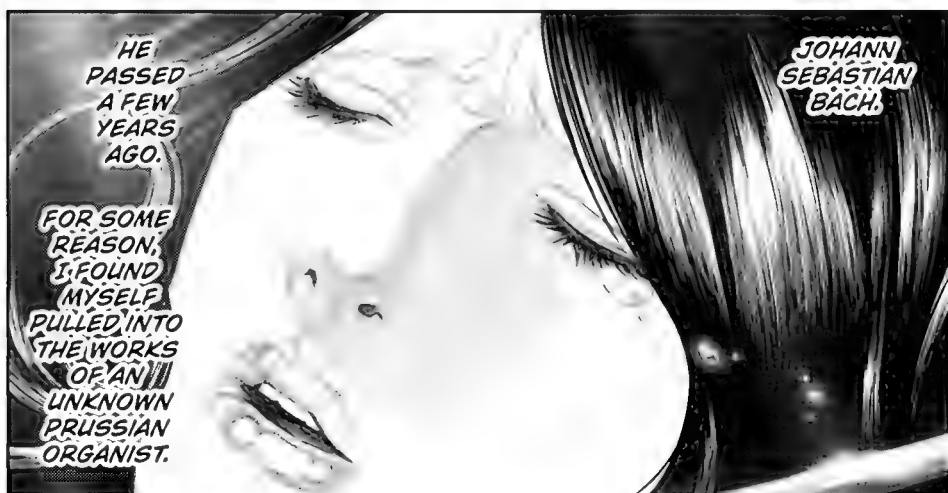










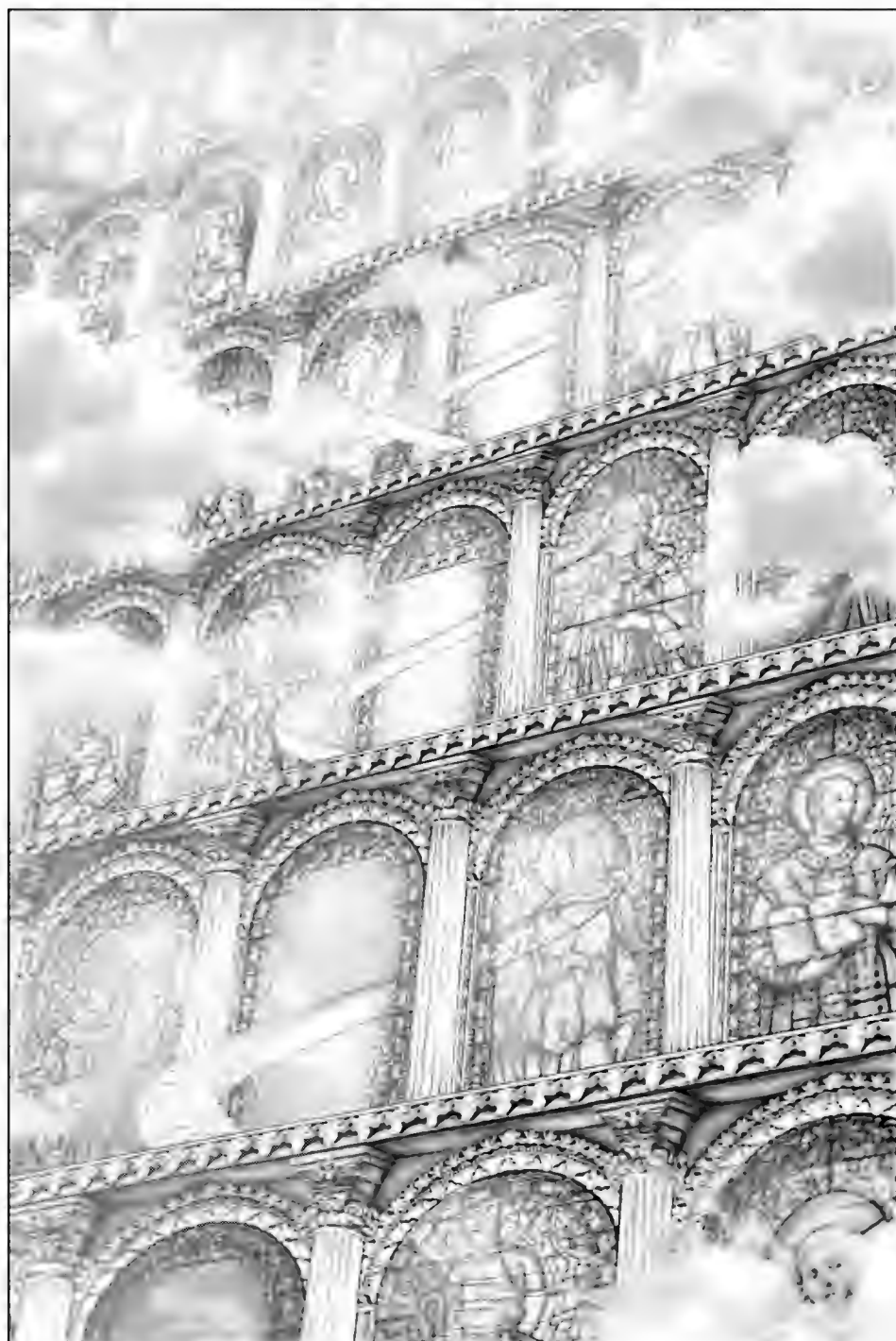


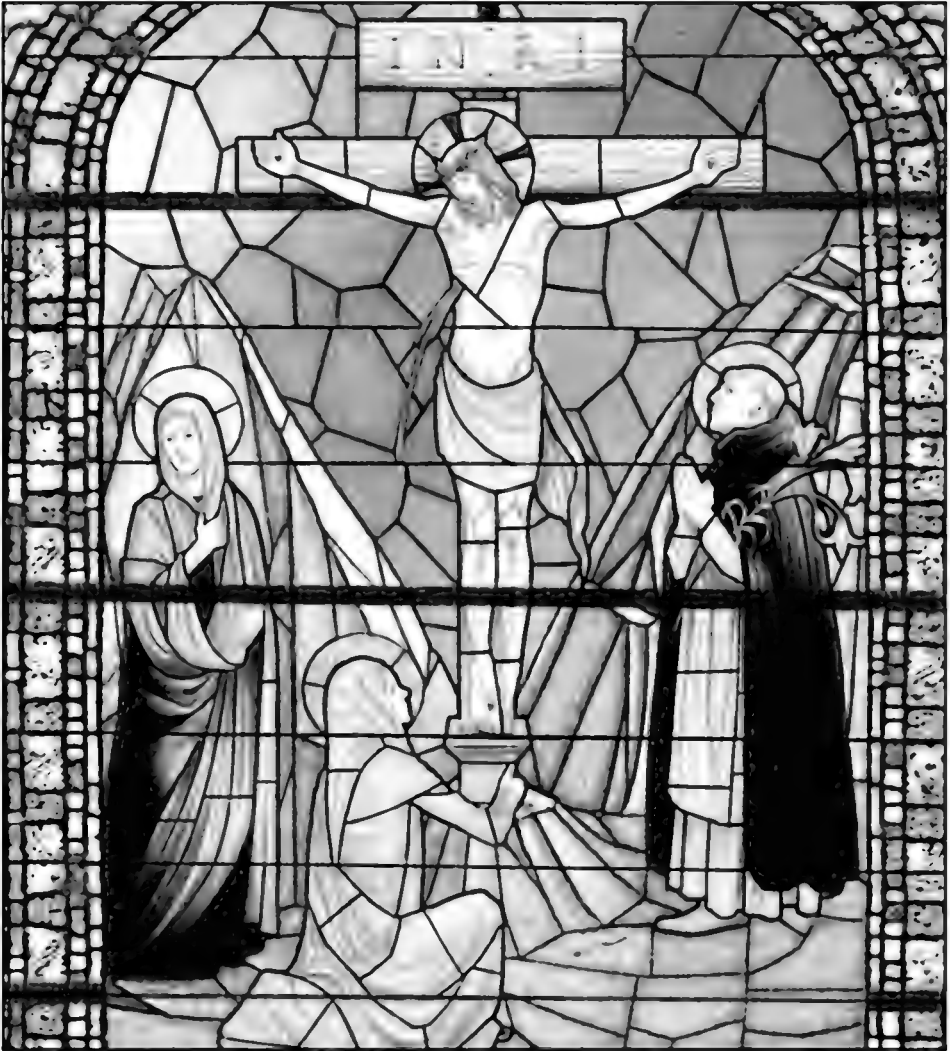
HE
PASSED
A FEW
YEARS
AGO.

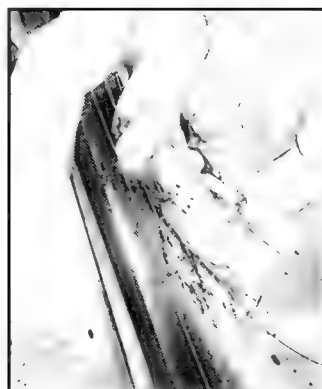
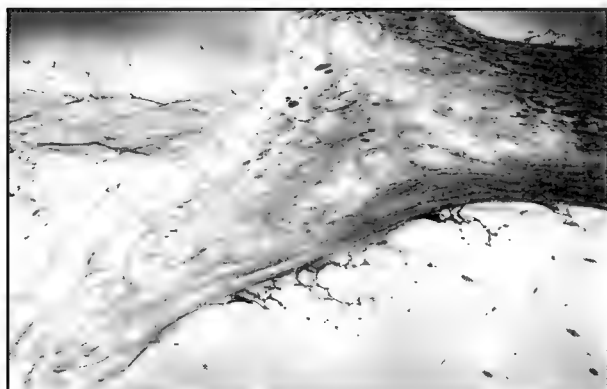
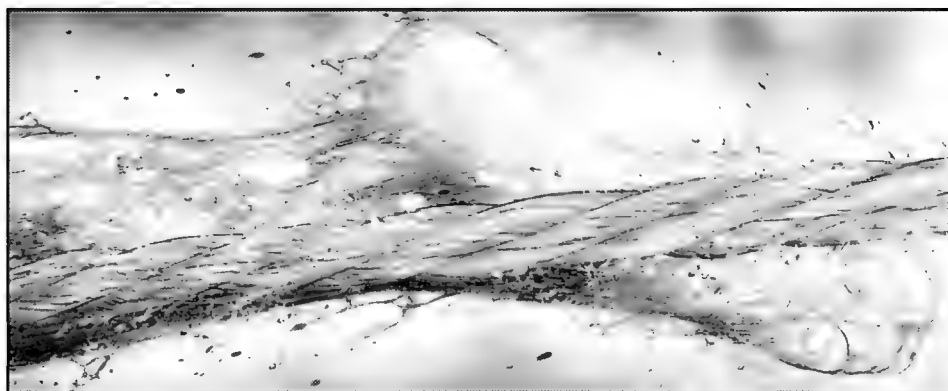
FOR SOME
REASON,
I FOUND
MYSELF
PULLED INTO
THE WORKS
OF AN
UNKNOWN
PRUSSIAN
ORGANIST.

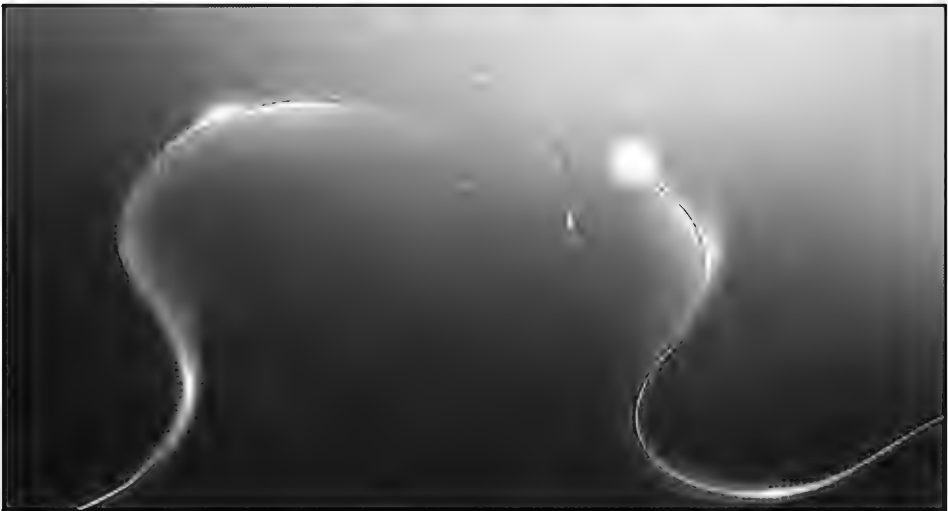
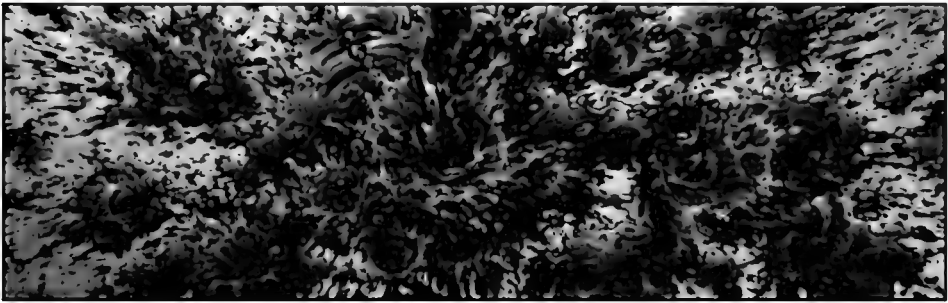
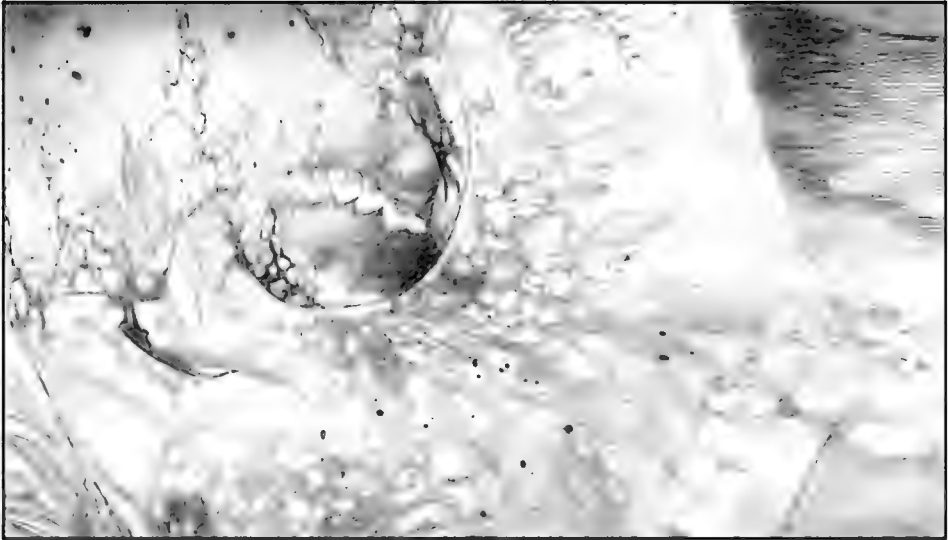
JOHANN
SEBASTIAN
BACH.

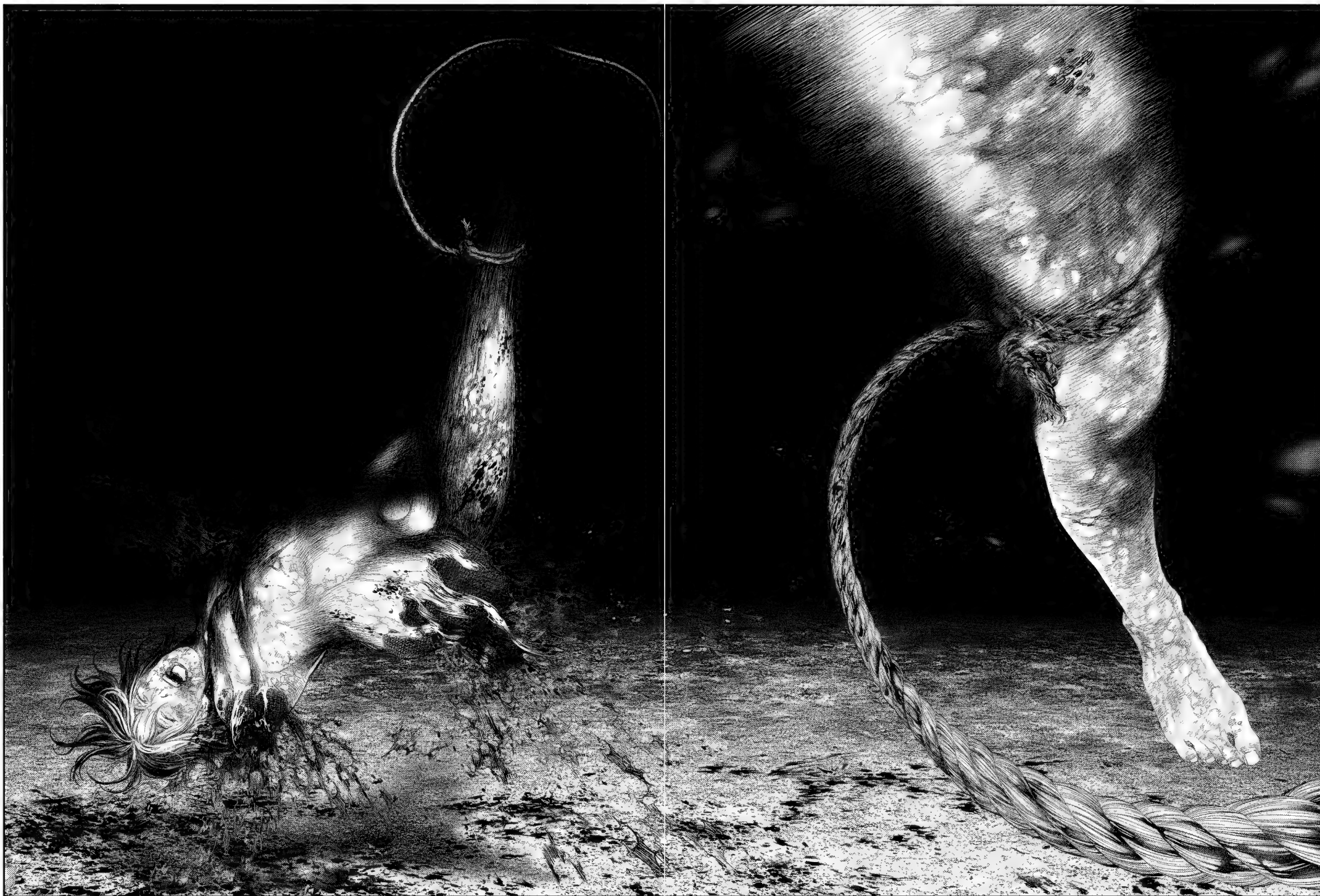


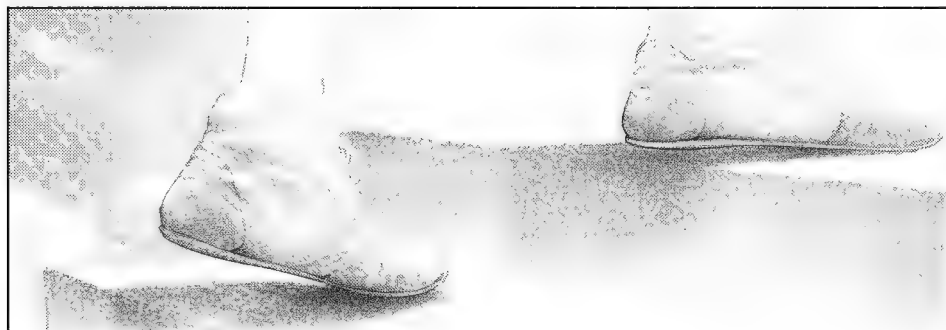
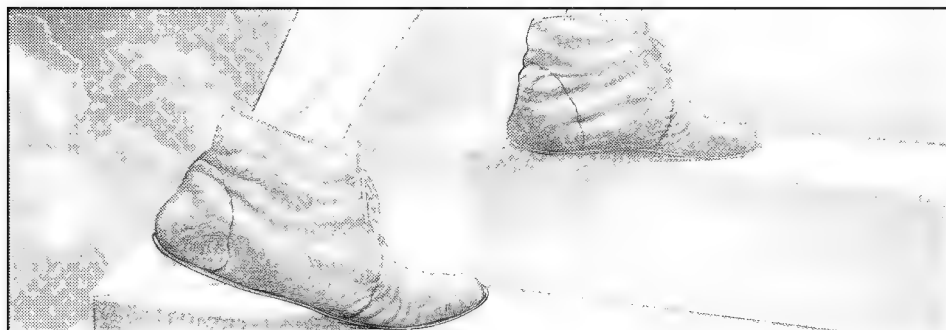
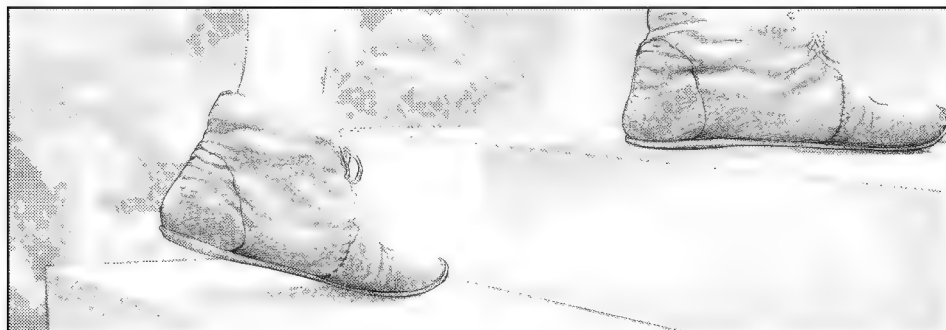
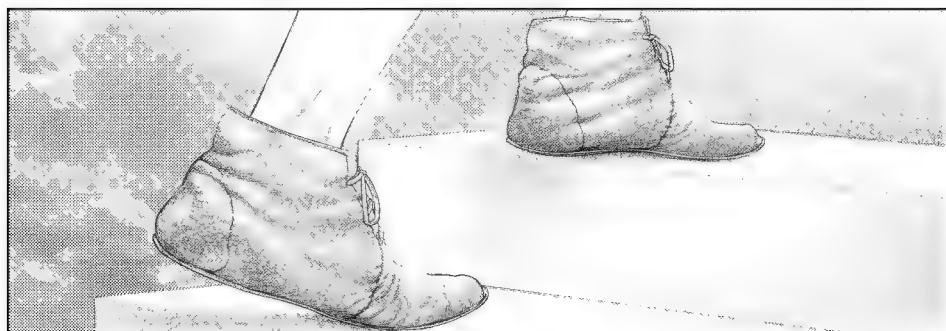




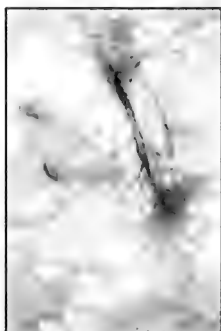
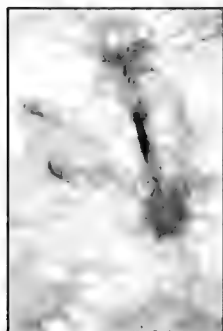


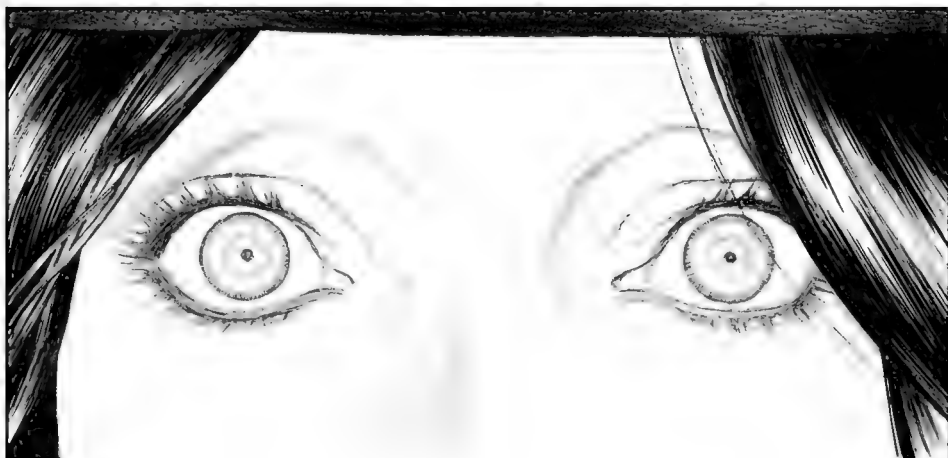






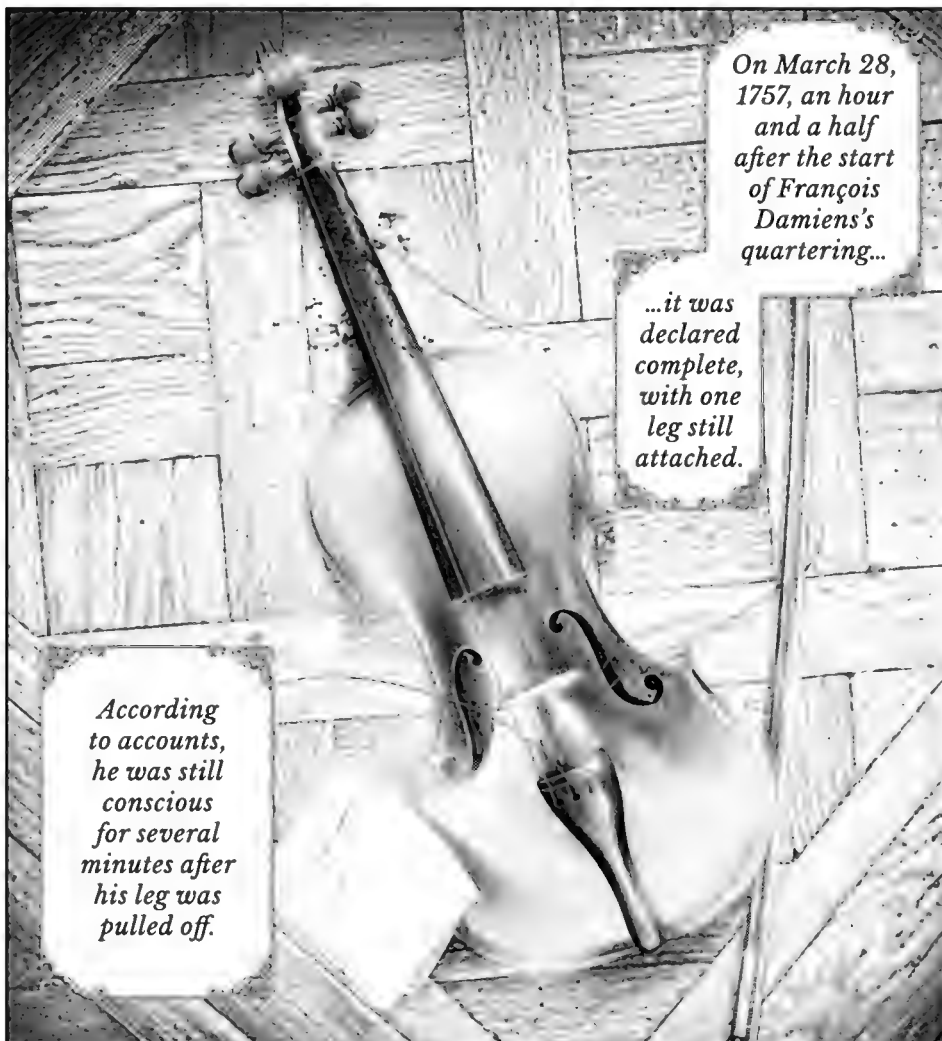
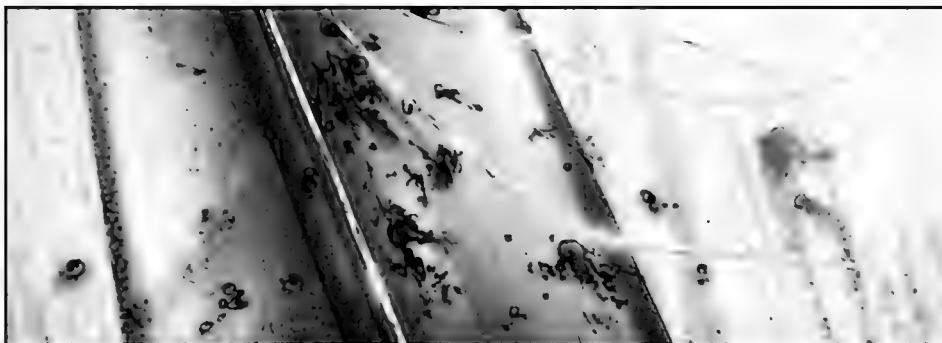












*On March 28,
1757, an hour
and a half
after the start
of François
Damiens's
quartering...*

*...it was
declared
complete,
with one
leg still
attached.*

*According
to accounts,
he was still
conscious
for several
minutes after
his leg was
pulled off.*





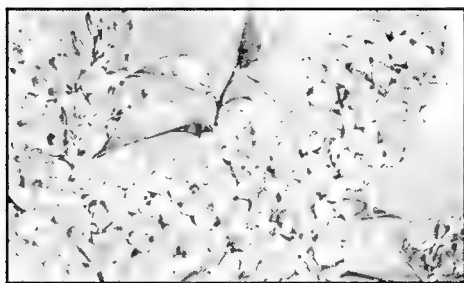
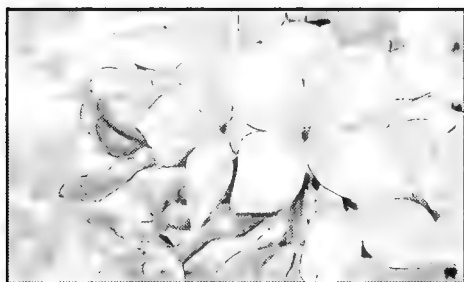
*Even
the scantest
trace of the
“regicidal”
Robert-François
Damiens
having ever
existed...*

*...was
thoroughly
removed
from all
record by the
kingdom of
France.*

*The
names of
his relatives
were all
changed
and they
suffered
banishment
to foreign
lands.*

*Following
the execution,
Damiens’s
residence was
demolished and
the name of
the village
he resided in
was erased
from
record.*

n°39 The Flames of Enlightenment





ALL THE
STRINGS
BROKE
WITH THE
EXCEPTION
OF THE G
STRING.

SOMEONE
MUST'VE
BEEN
PLAYING
THIS
RATHER
HARD.

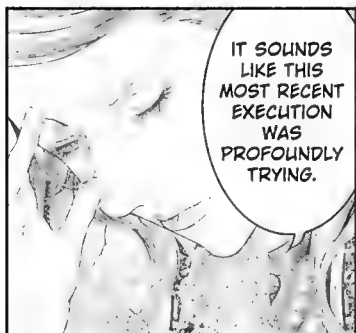
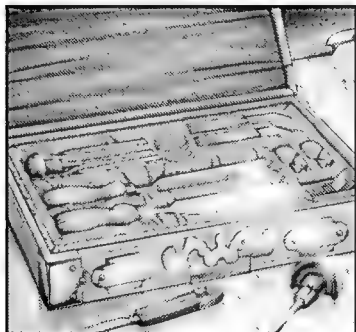


I
WOULD
WORRY
NOT,
CHARLES-
HENRI.

I'LL
RESTRING
IT FOR
YOU
IN NO
TIME...

...FOR
THERE IS
NOTHING
THAT
I CANNOT
REPAIR.

JULIUS SCHMIDT
*A German musical
instrument repairman
frequented by
House Sanson.*



IT SOUNDS
LIKE THIS
MOST RECENT
EXECUTION
WAS
PROFOUNDLY
TRYING.



...I'M
QUITE SURE
THAT YOU
PLAYED
THAT SONG
FOLLOWING
THE
EXECUTION.

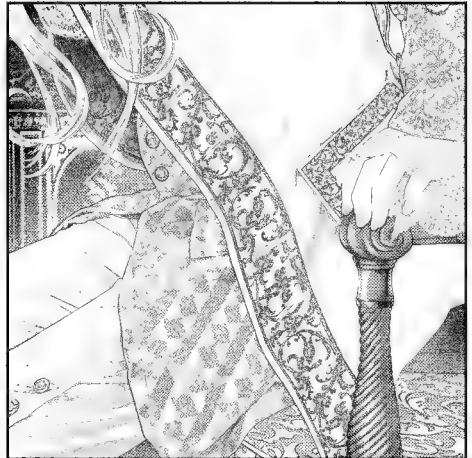
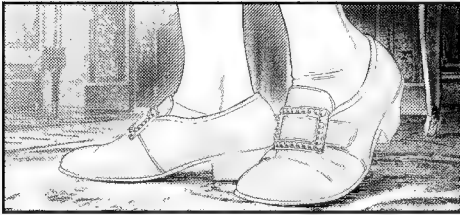
WHILE
JOHANN
SEBASTIAN BACH
IS BUT A
LITTLE-KNOWN
COMPOSER...

DID YOU
PLAY THAT
SONG AGAIN
THAT I
HAPPENED
UPON FROM
PRUSSIA?



DID IT
SAVE YOU
ONCE
AGAIN?

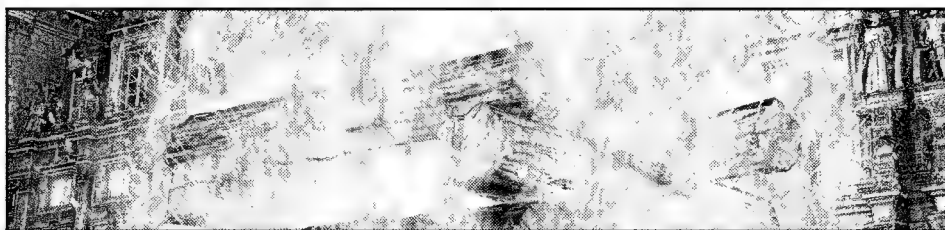
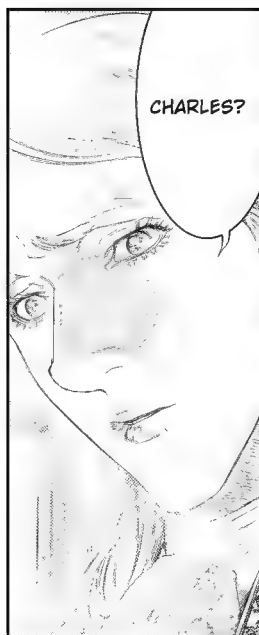
SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
HARMONIES
CAN
SOOTHE
PEOPLE.





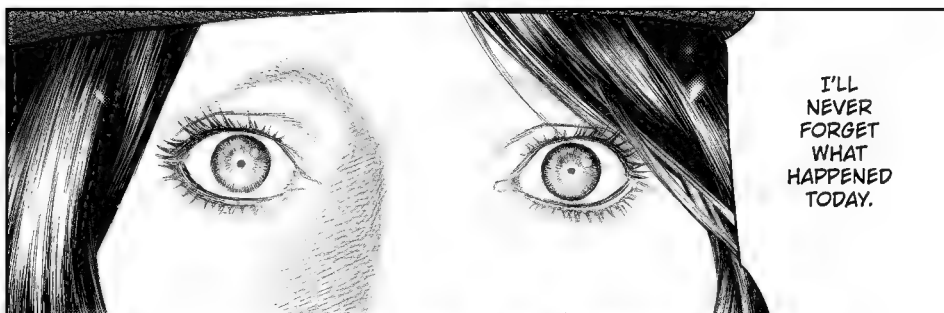
JUST
FORGET
THAT IT
EVER
HAPPENED.

IT'LL
BE JUST
FINE.
IT'S ALL
OVER
NOW.









I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
WHAT
HAPPENED
TODAY.



SOMEDAY,
I'M GONNA...
I'M GONNA
FIND THOSE
WHO DID
THIS TO
MY PAPA
AN'...

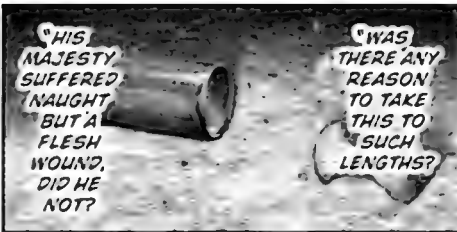
...KILL
THE LOT
OF
'EM!



!!

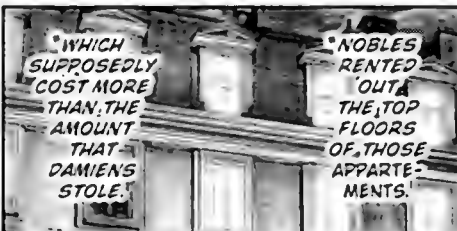
THE
PYRE'S
COLLAPS-
ING!
EVERY-
ONE,
STAND
BACK!





"HIS
MAJESTY
SUFFERED
NAUGHT
BUT A
FLESH
WOUND.
DID HE
NOT?

"WAS
THERE ANY
REASON
TO TAKE
THIS TO
SUCH
LENGTHS?



"WHICH
SUPPOSEDLY
COST MORE
THAN THE
AMOUNT
THAT
DAMIEN'S
STOLE."

"NOBLES
RENTED
OUT THE
TOP
FLOORS
OF THOSE
APART-
MENTS."

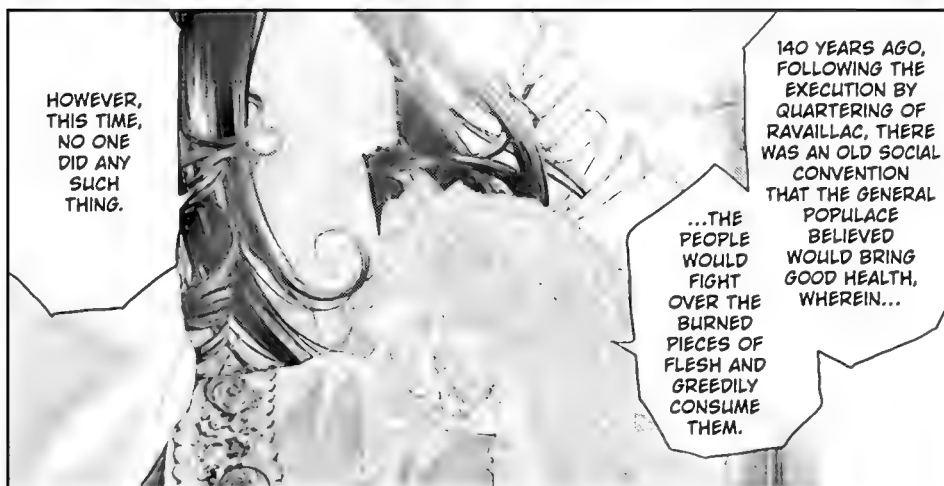


"I'M
SOMEHOW
SO
EXHAUSTED."

"I
SIMPLY
CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT
RUSH OF
EXCITEMENT."



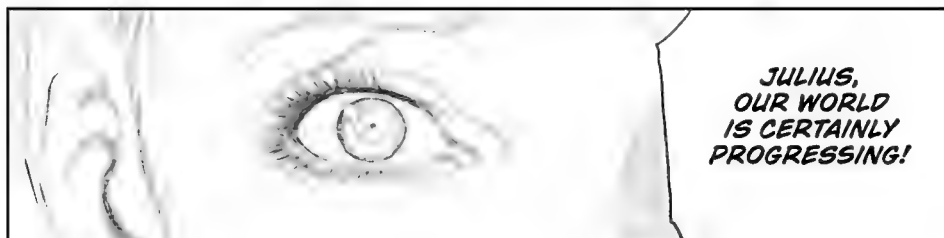
**"DOES IT
REALLY ALL
COME DOWN
TO ENJOYING
THE SPECTACLE
OF KILLING
SOMEONE AS
POOR AS WE
ARE?"**



**HOWEVER,
THIS TIME,
NO ONE
DID ANY
SUCH
THING.**

**...THE
PEOPLE
WOULD
FIGHT
OVER THE
BURNED
PIECES OF
FLESH AND
GREEDILY
CONSUME
THEM.**

**140 YEARS AGO,
FOLLOWING THE
EXECUTION BY
QUARTERING OF
RAVAILLAC, THERE
WAS AN OLD SOCIAL
CONVENTION
THAT THE GENERAL
POPULACE
BELIEVED
WOULD BRING
GOOD HEALTH,
WHEREIN...**

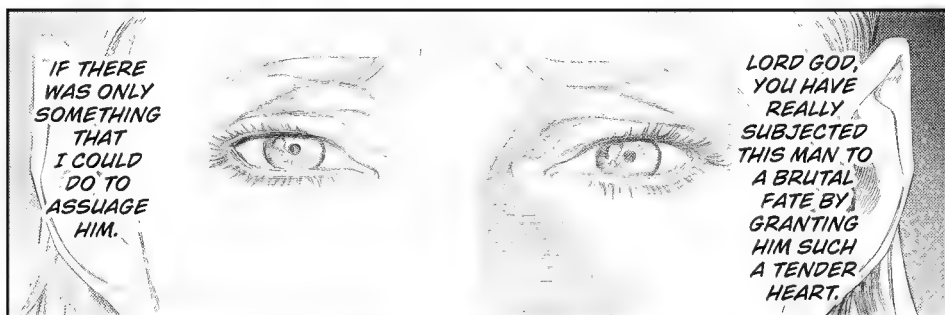


**JULIUS,
OUR WORLD
IS CERTAINLY
PROGRESSING!**



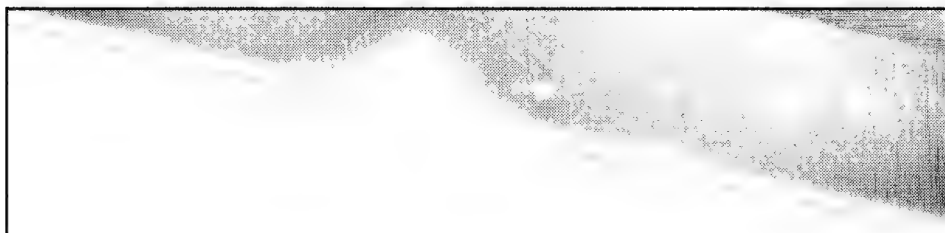
ANACHRONISTIC
ACTS
OF SAVAGE
BARBARISM
SUCH AS
EXECUTIONS
BY
QUARTERING
HAVE TO
SEE THEIR
END.

WHICH IS
PRECISELY
WHY WE,
THE FRENCH,
MUSTN'T EVER
FORGET
THE HORRIFIC
SPECTACLE
THAT WAS
WITNESSED
HERE!



IF THERE
WAS ONLY
SOMETHING
THAT
I COULD
DO TO
ASSUAGE
HIM.

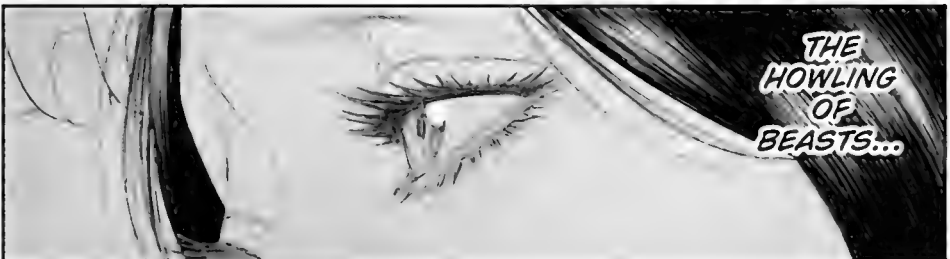
LORD GOD,
YOU HAVE
REALLY
SUBJECTED
THIS MAN TO
A BRUTAL
FATE BY
GRANTING
HIM SUCH
A TENDER
HEART.





*Julius
Schmidt,
a German
man
living
in Paris,
France...
...was a
musician
himself
and a
musical
instrument
repairman.*

*His son,
Tobias Schmidt,
would later
create the
guillotine
at the
behest of
Charles.*



n°40 The Child Femme Fatale



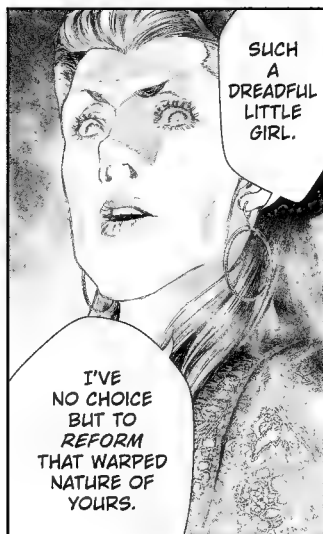
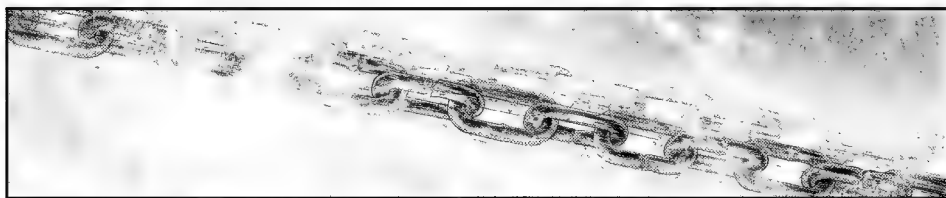


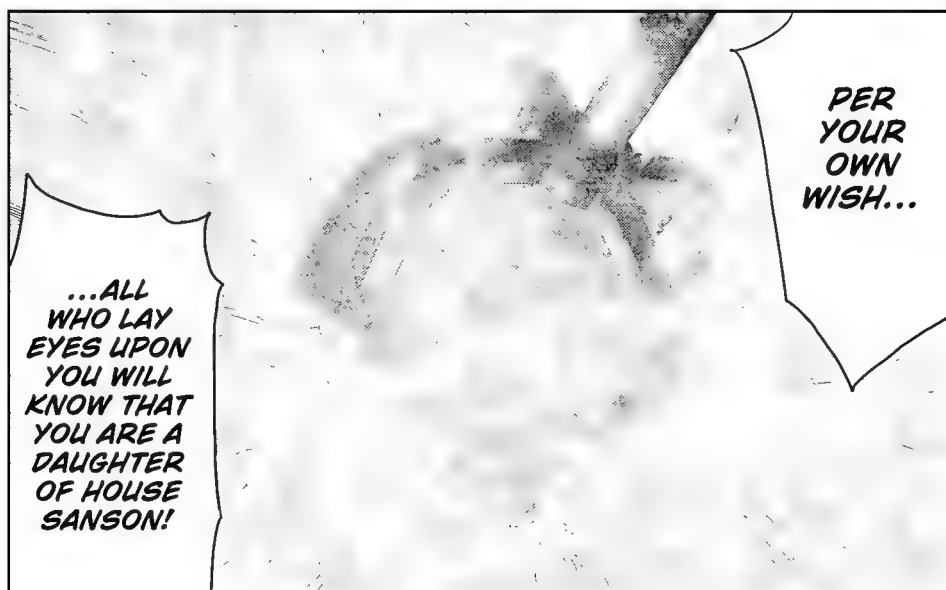
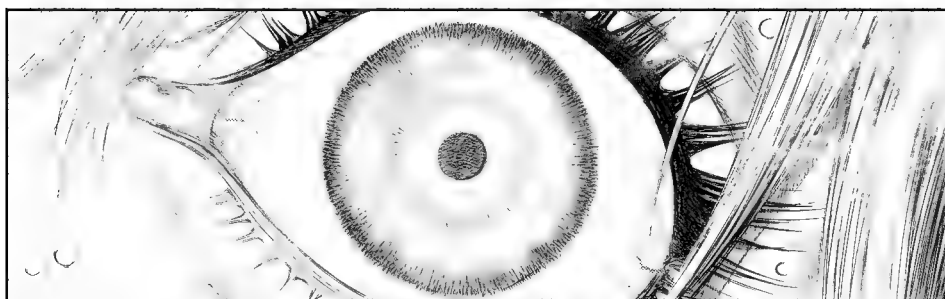
HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?

MY
PETITE
MERDEUSE.











IF YOU
DO NOT
KNOW THIS
FACT, YOU
CANNOT
SURVIVE
THIS
WORLD!

MARIE,
WOMEN
ARE
NOT
PEOPLE!

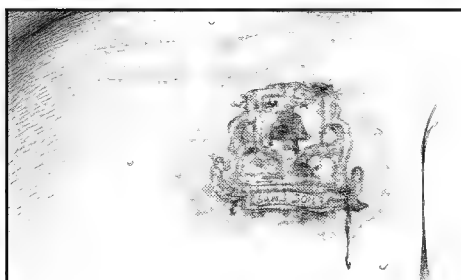
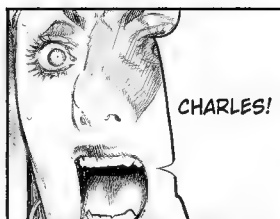
WITHOUT
MEN, THEY
HAVE A PALTRY
EXISTENCE,
WITH LESS
VALUE THAN
EVEN
LIVESTOCK!

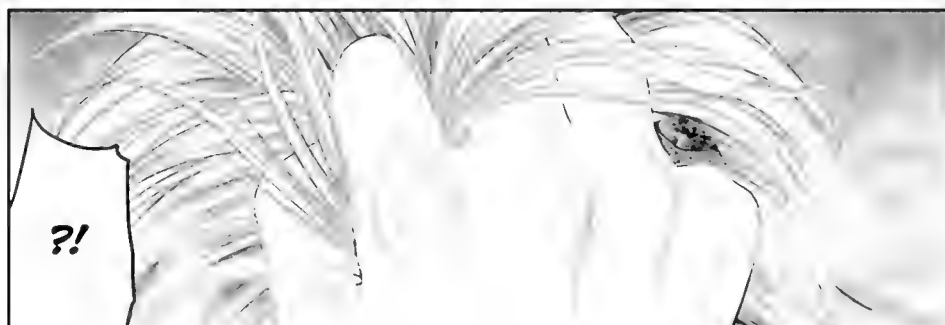


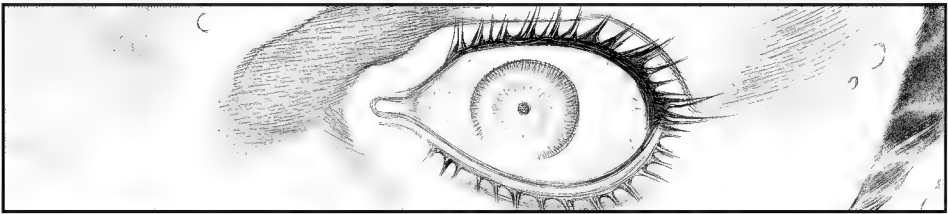


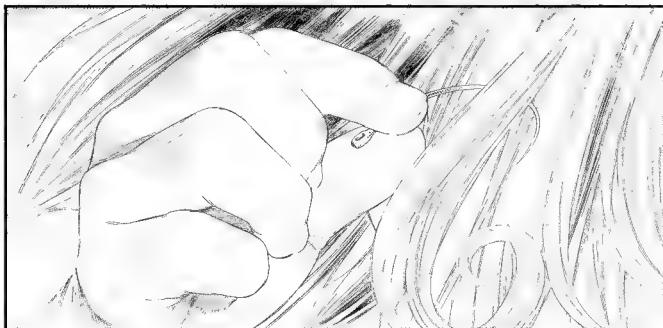




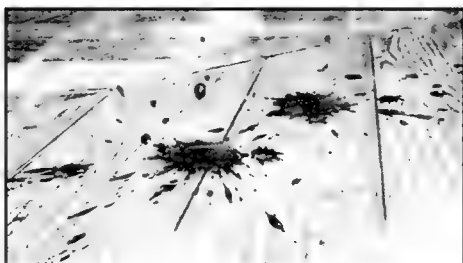


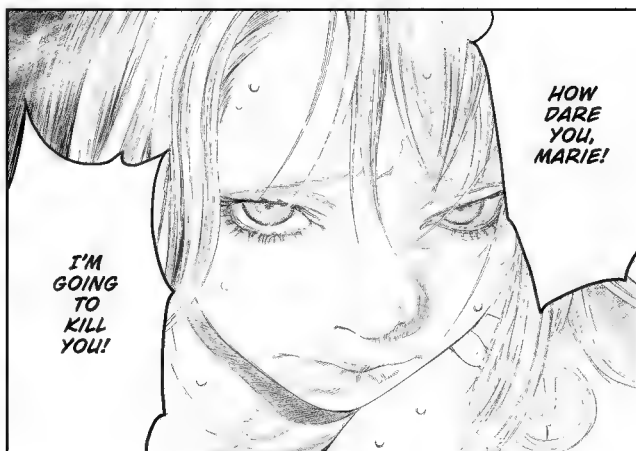
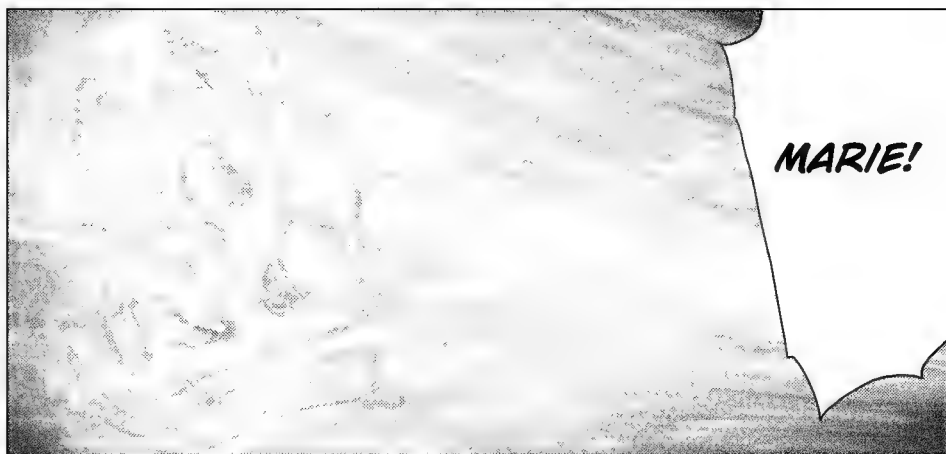














**YOU
ARE BUT
A DEMON
THAT INVITES
DESTRUCTION
AND
MISFORTUNE
UNTO
HOUSE
SANSON!**

n°41 Genesis of the Innocent





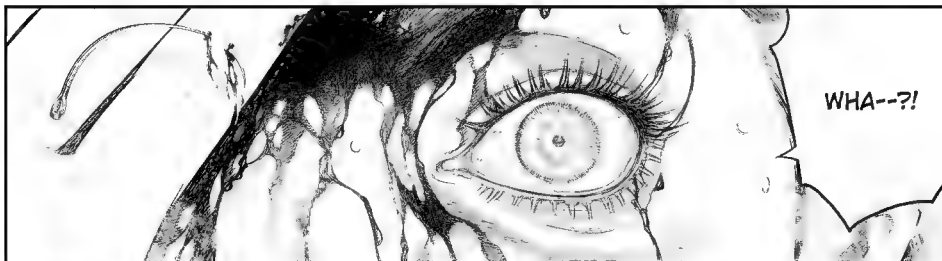


IT WAS
FROM
UNCLE
NICOLAS,
WHO IS
CURRENTLY IN
PENITENCE.



GIVEN
THE GREAT
SUFFERING HE
ENDURED AS A
RESULT OF THE
QUARTERING, HE
RELINQUISHED
TO ME HIS SEAT
AS PRÉVÔTE DE
L'HÔTEL.

HE HAS
ELECTED
TO DEVOTE
HIMSELF
TO GOD
AND LIVE HIS
LIFE AS A
MONK.

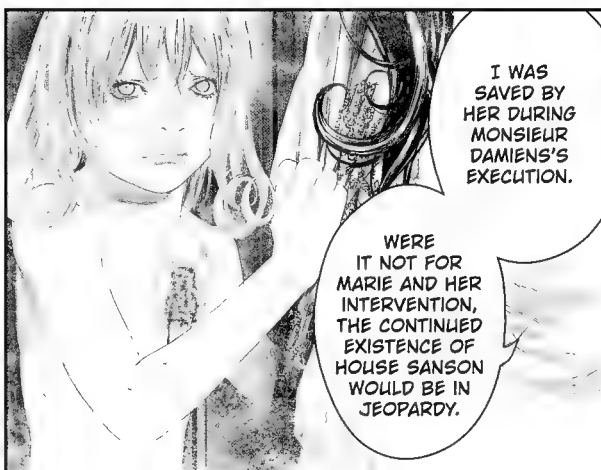


WHA--?!



UNACCEPT-
ABLE!

THE MERE
NOTION OF
A MEMBER OF
HOUSE SANSON
CHOOSING
TO RETIRE
WITHOUT FIRST
CONSULTING
ME IS
ABSURD!

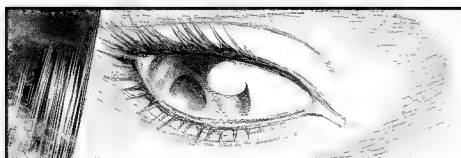


I WAS
SAVED BY
HER DURING
MONSIEUR
DAMIENS'S
EXECUTION.

WERE
IT NOT FOR
MARIE AND HER
INTERVENTION,
THE CONTINUED
EXISTENCE OF
HOUSE SANSON
WOULD BE IN
JEOPARDY.



GRAND-
MOTHER.
MARIE
IS
TALENTED.



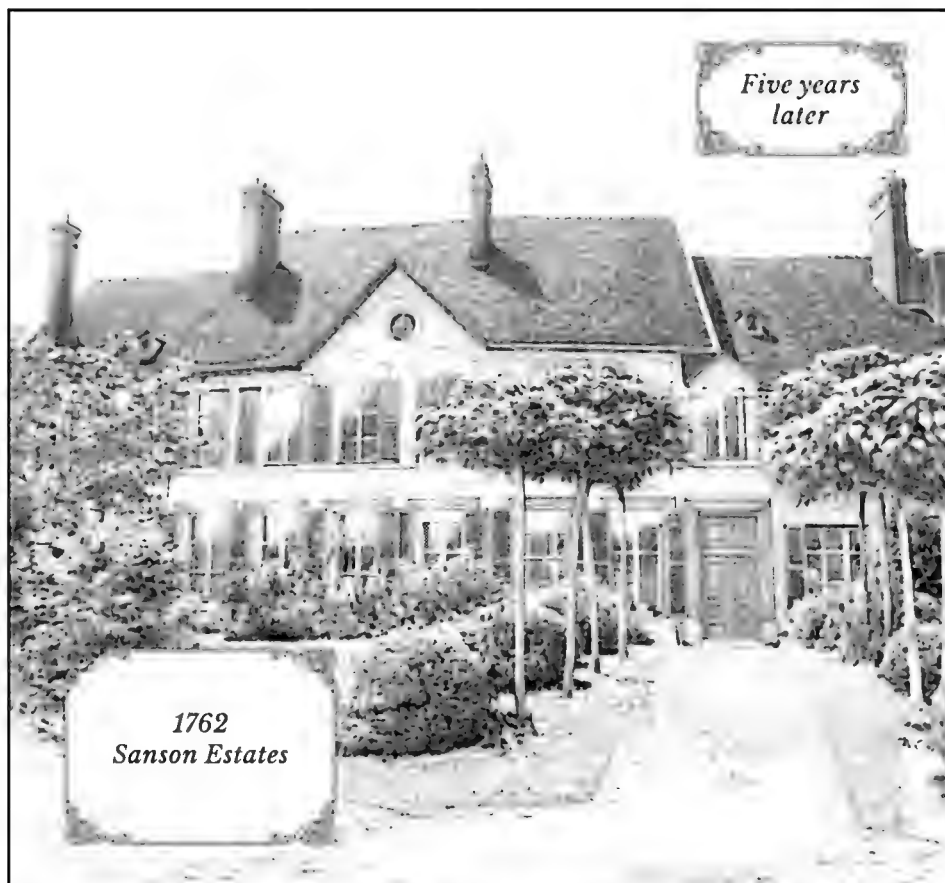


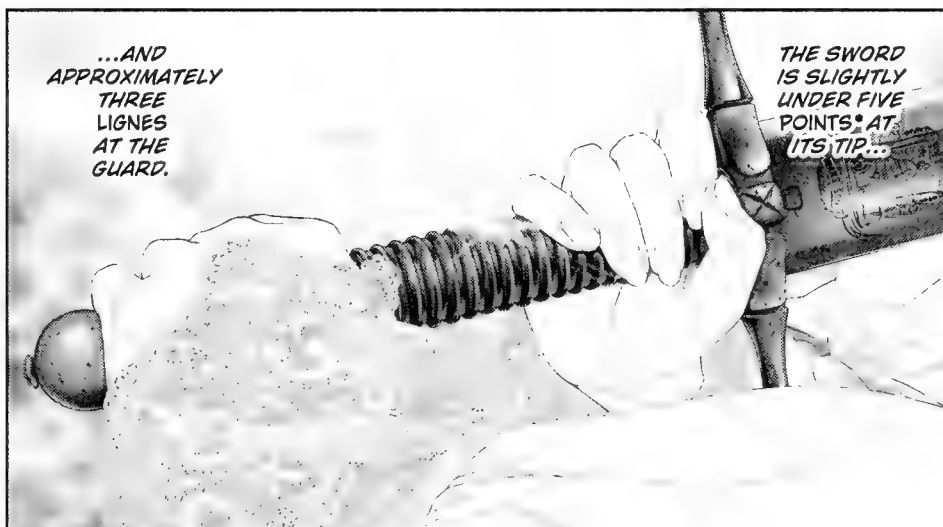
AND
ANYONE
WHO
MIGHT
THREATEN
OUR
FUTURE...

...SHALL
BE CUT
DOWN,
NO
MATTER
WHO
THEY
ARE!

THIS
NEW
ERA IS
OURS!







...AND
APPROXIMATELY
THREE
LIGNES
AT THE
GUARD.

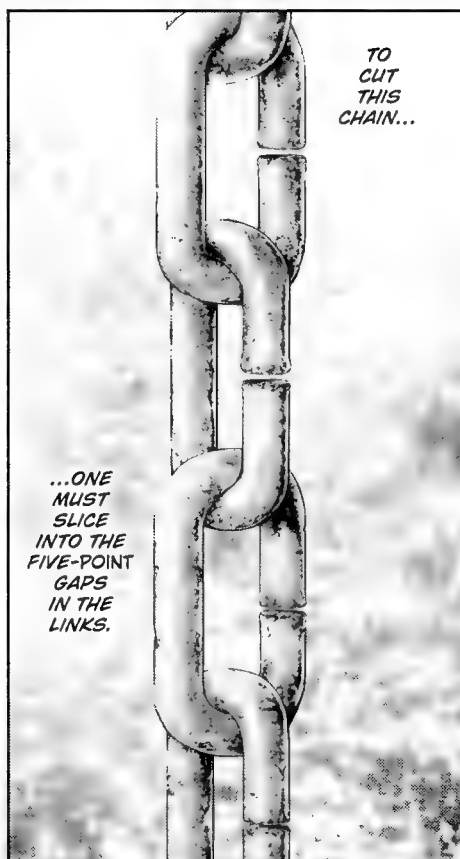
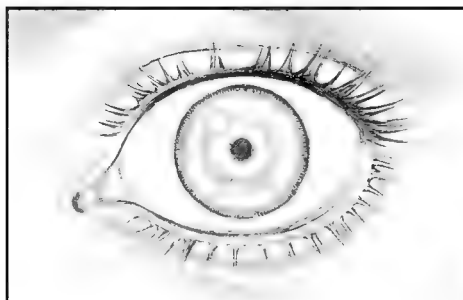
THE SWORD
IS SLIGHTLY
UNDER FIVE
POINTS* AT
ITS TIP...

*UNITS OF MEASURE AT THE TIME. ONE LIGNE IS ABOUT 2.2 MILLIMETERS AND ONE POINT ABOUT 0.19 MILLIMETERS.



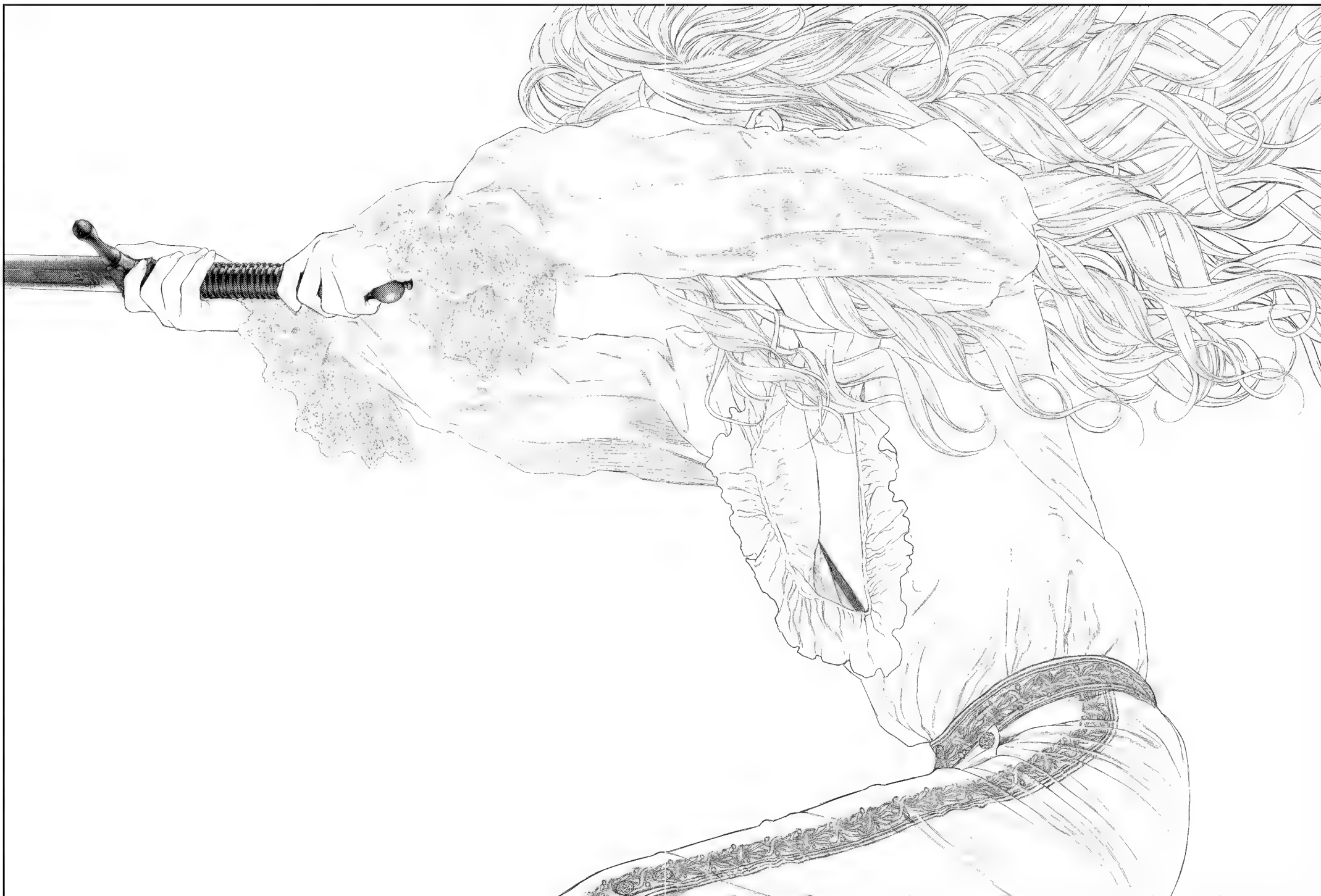
SO
TWO
LIGNES
SHOULD
BE MORE
THAN
ENOUGH.

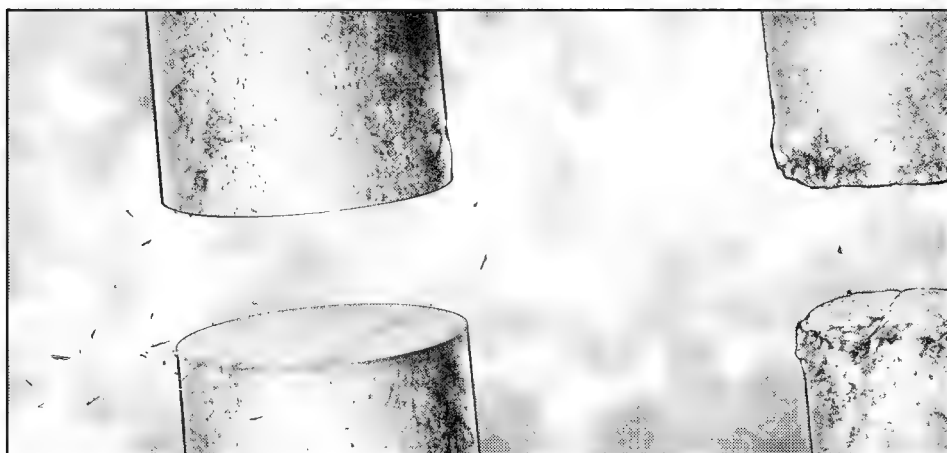
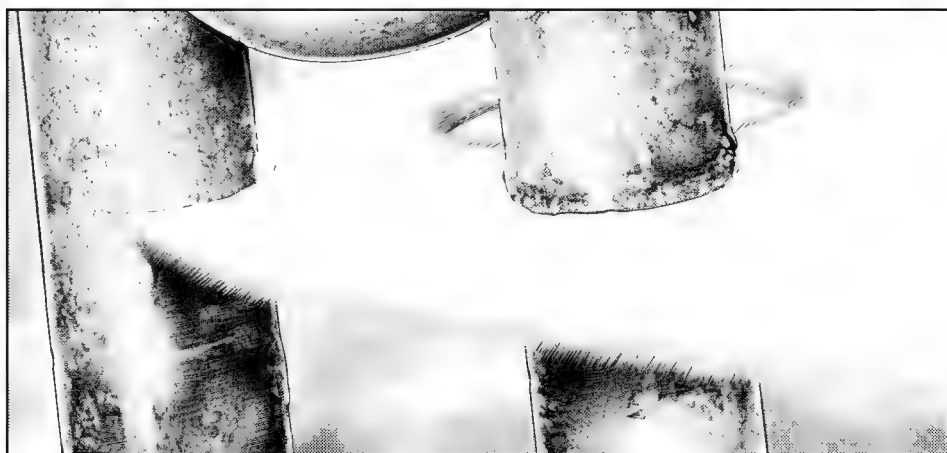
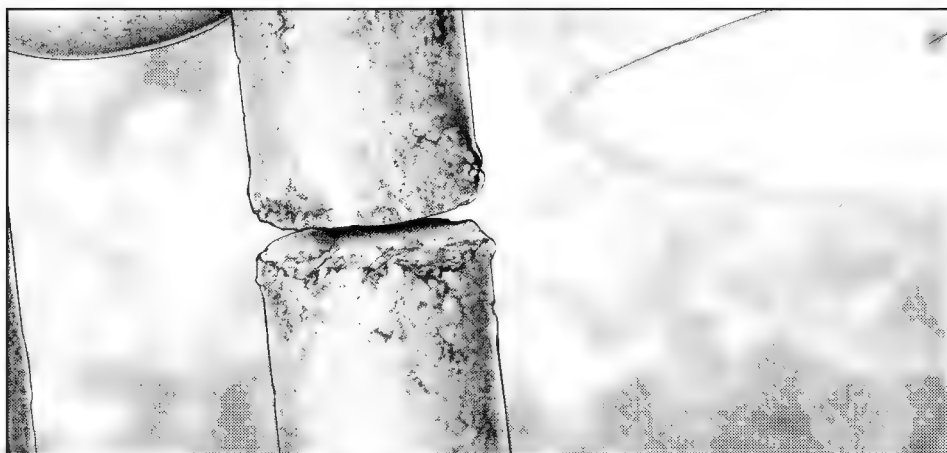
IN
ORDER
TO WIN
IN A
SWORD
FIGHT,
I'D BE
UNABLE
TO CUT
PAST A
GUARD
OF FIVE
LIGNES IN
THICK-
NESS.

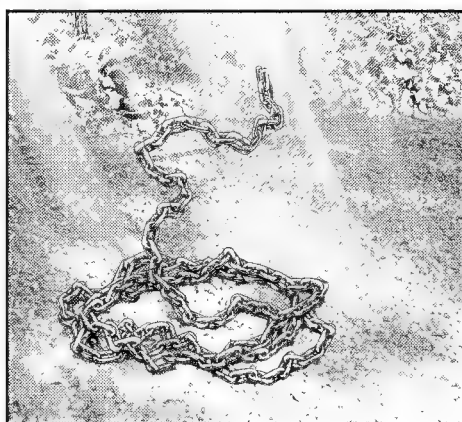
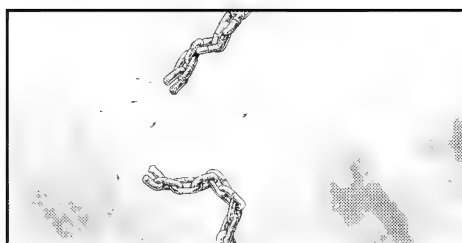
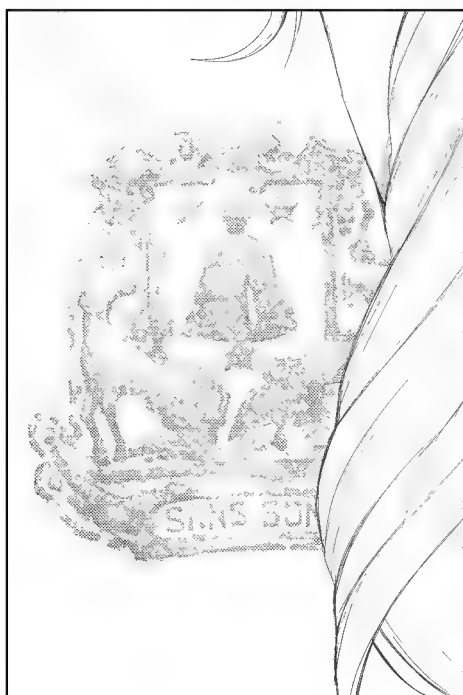


TO
CUT
THIS
CHAIN...

...ONE
MUST
SLICE
INTO THE
FIVE-POINT
GAPS
IN THE
LINKS.









NOTHING
IS
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME.

MARIE-JOSEPH SANSON
*Executioner of Reims
Executioner directly reporting
to the Palace of Versailles
judicial officers of court
Proxy prévôté de l'Hôtel*



The Red Struggle

The truth is never spoken aloud and also never thrown into the vast sea of social media.
We have no choice but to use our intuition to sop up those momentary glimmers of
truth that come alight in the eyes of all, that so quickly come and disappear as we
look into one another's eyes.

—Emily, *Journal of Emily*



PRUSSIA

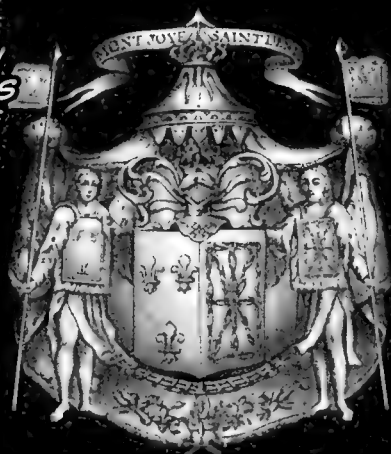


AUSTRIA

ENTERING
THE 18TH
CENTURY,
A WAR
FOR
WEALTH
AND
RESOURCES
SPREAD
TO THE
KNOWN
REACHES
OF THE
WORLD.



ENGLAND



FRANCE

THE WHITE LILY, WHICH ADORNS THE FRENCH COAT OF ARMS, IS A FLOWER THAT SYMBOLIZES THE ABSOLUTE PURITY OF THE HOLY MOTHER VIRGIN MARY, AS IS THE UNICORN, WHICH HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF FRANCE SINCE THE MIDDLE AGES.



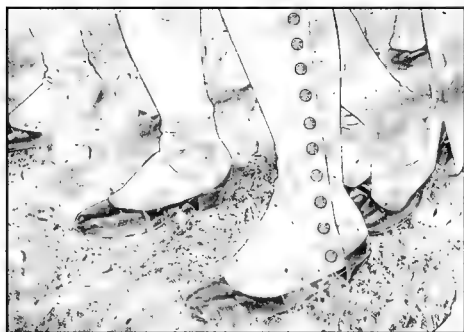
...FOUGHT
INSENSATELY
OVER
WEALTH
IN LANDS
TAKEN
AND
LOST.

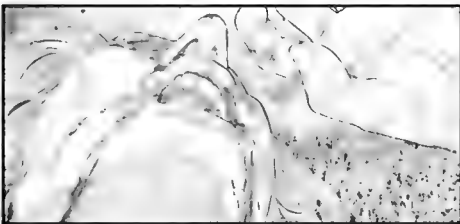
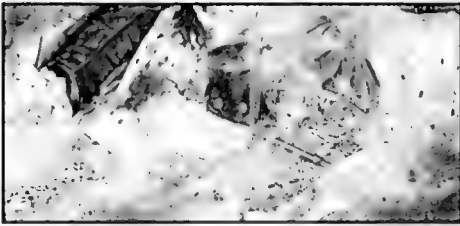
AVARICIOUS
BEASTS
WHOSE
DESIRE
KNEW
NO
BOUNDS...



*July 16, 1761
Battle of
Villinghausen*

*English and Prussian
allied forces against
the French army.*

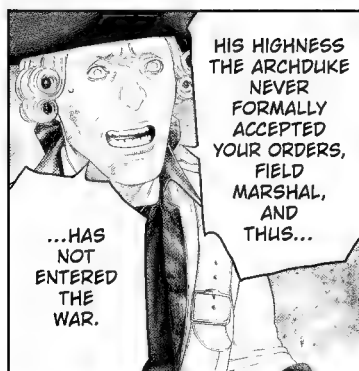






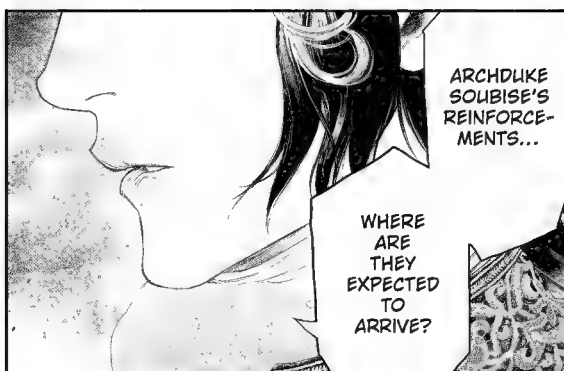
OUR
FRENCH
ARMY HAS
OVER 5,000
DEAD.
WE'VE
NO OTHER
OPTION
AT THIS
POINT
BUT TO
RETREAT!

YOUR
DECISION
PLEASE,
FIELD
MARSHAL
GRIFFIN!!



...HAS
NOT
ENTERED
THE
WAR.

HIS HIGHNESS
THE ARCHDUKE
NEVER
FORMALLY
ACCEPTED
YOUR ORDERS,
FIELD
MARSHAL,
AND
THUS...



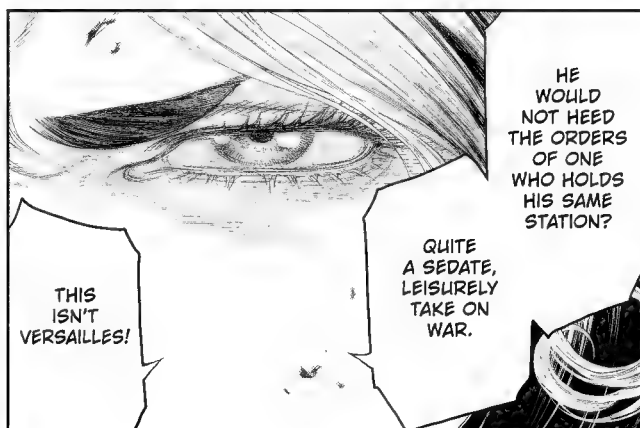
ARCHDUKE
SOUBISE'S
REINFORCE-
MENTS...

WHERE
ARE
THEY
EXPECTED
TO
ARRIVE?



THIS IS
UNFORTU-
NATE.

IF WE
RETURN
TO PARIS,
I DOUBT
I'D BE
ABLE TO
AVOID
PROSECU-
TION.



THIS
ISN'T
VERSAILLES!

HE
WOULD
NOT HEED
THE ORDERS
OF ONE
WHO HOLDS
HIS SAME
STATION?

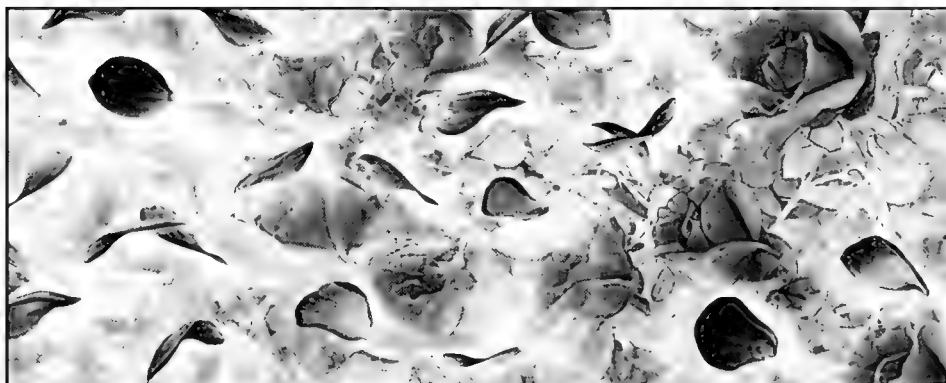
QUITE
A SEDATE,
LEISURELY
TAKE ON
WAR.





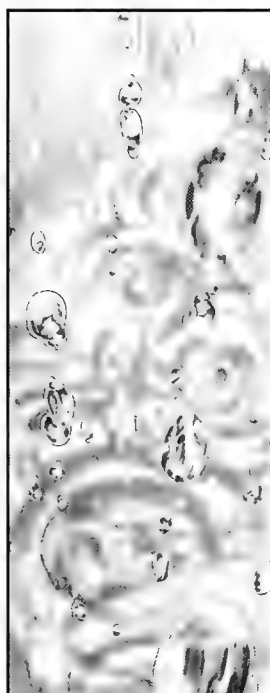
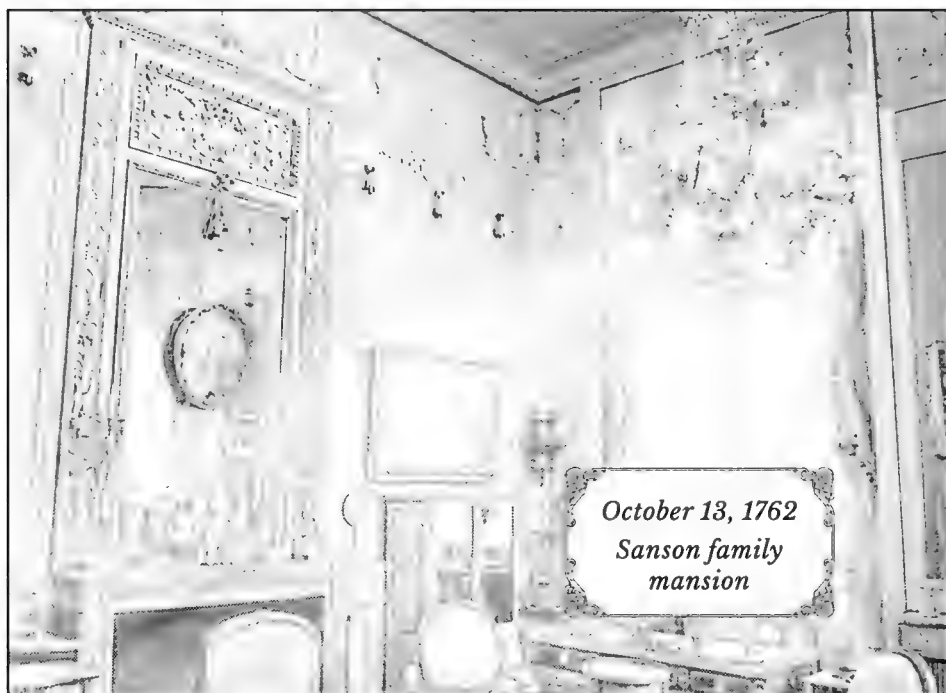
WERE
I TO BE
CHARGED
WITH
CUTTING
OFF YOUR
HEAD...

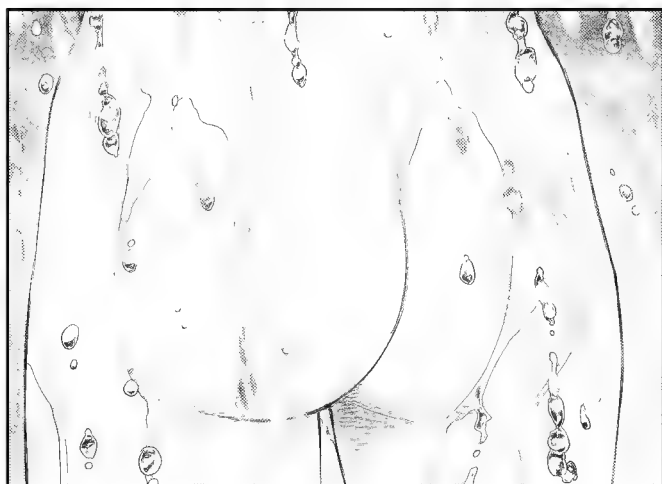
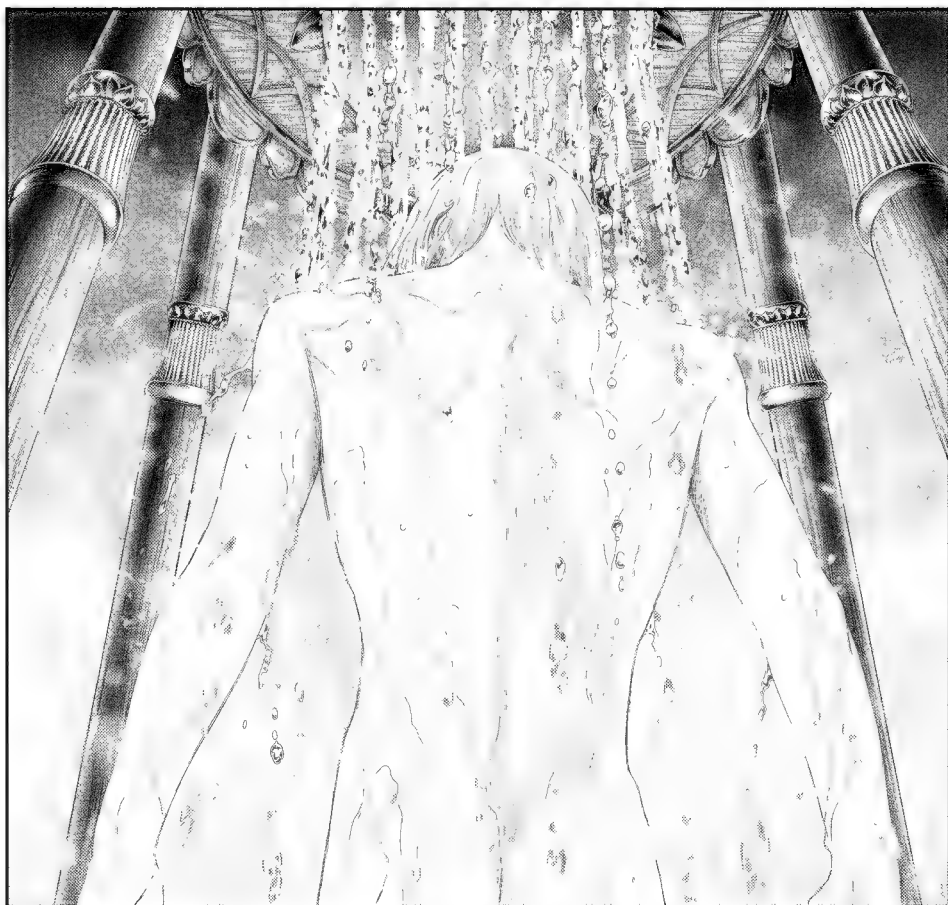
...I
PROMISE
THAT I
SHOULD
DO IT IN
ONE FELL
STROKE,
WITHOUT
FAIL.

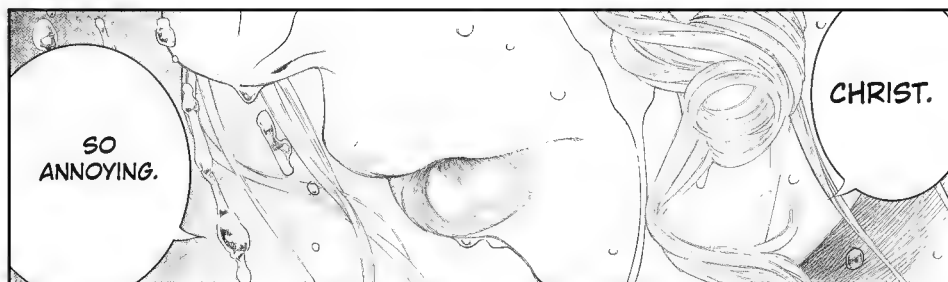




Act Two: Red Versailles









THE
DAY HAS
FINALLY
COME...

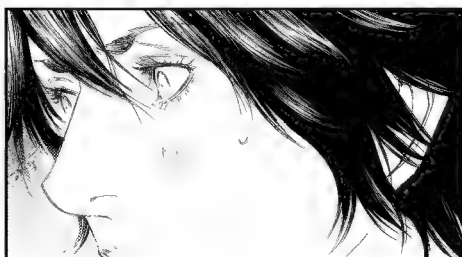
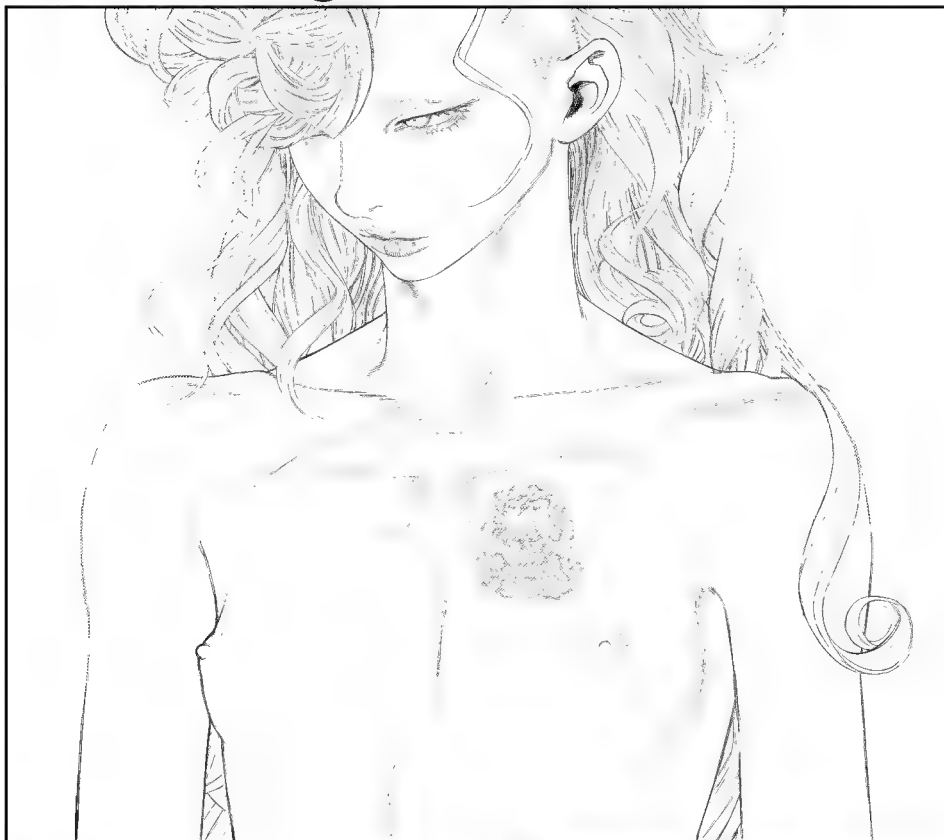
...WHEN
I CAN
EXECUTE
THAT
MAN.

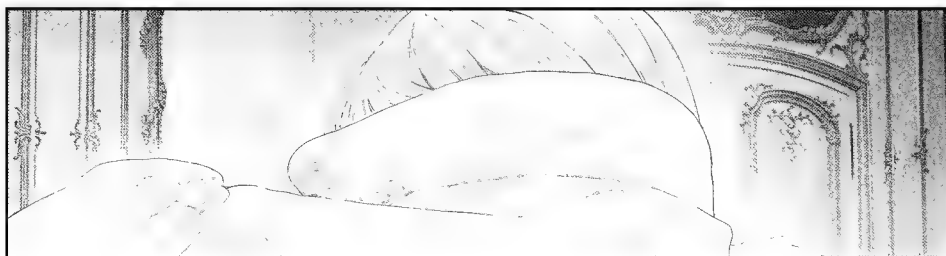
TODAY,
I WILL
SEE TO IT
THAT YOU
SUFFER
THOROUGHLY
UNTIL
I AM
SATISFIED,
AND
THEN,
I WILL
KILL
YOU.

THOMAS-
ARTHUR
GRIFFIN,
YOU'RE
THE ONE
PERSON
THAT I
CANNOT
LET GO
WITH
JUST ONE
SWING.



n°43 I Am Rouge







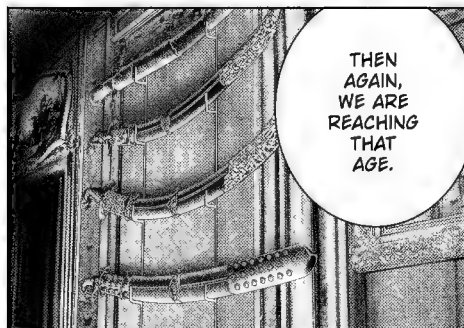


JUST
THE
WORST.

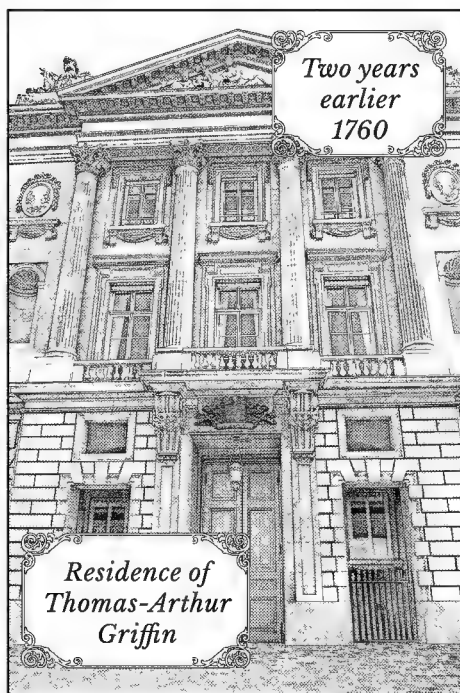


JEAN-
BAPTISTE
HAVING
FALLEN
ILL...

REALLY,
THEN.
THAT'S MOST
UNFORTUNATE.



THEN
AGAIN,
WE ARE
REACHING
THAT
AGE.



Two years
earlier
1760

Residence of
Thomas-Arthur
Griffin





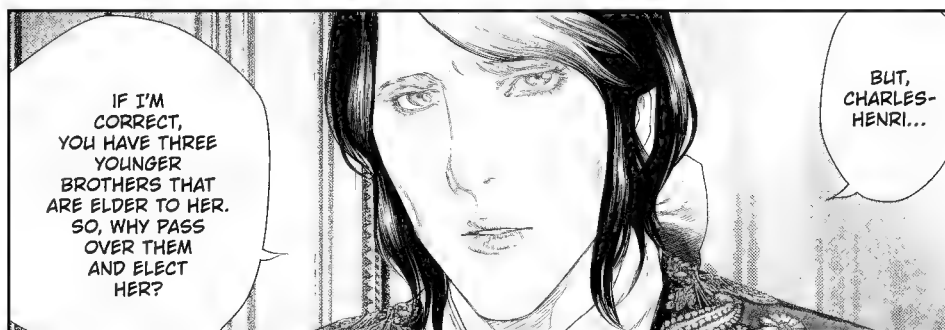
I CURRENTLY
HOLD THE
POSITION OF
PRÉVÔTÉ DE
L'HÔTEL, AFTER
MY UNCLE
RELINQUISHED THE
POSITION THREE
YEARS AGO.
HOWEVER...

...NEXT
YEAR, AS MY
LITTLE SISTER
TURNS TEN
YEARS OF AGE,
I WOULD LIKE
TO ASSIGN
THE RIGHTS OF
THAT STATION
TO HER.



MY FATHER
HAS ALWAYS
TOLD ME, LORD
GRIFFIN, THAT
YOU'RE A MAN OF
PHILANTHROPIC
IDEALS--ONE OF A
SCANT FEW THAT
UNDERSTAND
US...

...AND
OFFER EVEN
PEOPLE LIKE US
EXECUTIONERS
WARM FRIENDSHIP
WITHOUT
DISCRIMINATION
OR
CONDITION.



IF I'M
CORRECT,
YOU HAVE THREE
YOUNGER
BROTHERS THAT
ARE ELDER TO HER.
SO, WHY PASS
OVER THEM
AND ELECT
HER?

BUT,
CHARLES-
HENRI...



TALENT...



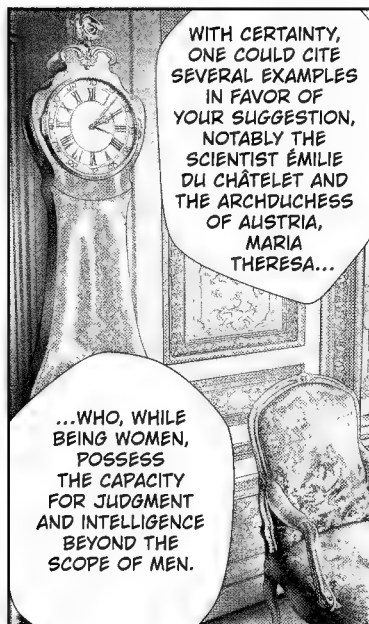
...AND
SHE'S QUITE
TALENTED, SO
I'D LIKE TO
OFFER HER
THIS WORK.

REGARDING
MY YOUNGER
BROTHERS,
THEY ALREADY
HAVE THEIR
ARRANGEMENTS
AS EXECUTIONERS
OF TOURS,
BLOIS, AND
PROVINS...



SHINING
BRIGHT
WITH THEIR
OWN
TALENTS,
THOSE
WOMEN...

...HAVE CHARM
FAR SURPASSING
OTHER WOMEN,
EVEN THOSE
ADORNED IN THE
MOST LAVISH
JEWELRY AND
BEAUTIFUL
DRESSES.



WITH CERTAINTY,
ONE COULD CITE
SEVERAL EXAMPLES
IN FAVOR OF
YOUR SUGGESTION,
NOTABLY THE
SCIENTIST ÉMILIE
DU CHÂTELET AND
THE ARCHDUCHESS
OF AUSTRIA,
MARIA
THERESA...

...WHO, WHILE
BEING WOMEN,
POSSESS
THE CAPACITY
FOR JUDGMENT
AND INTELLIGENCE
BEYOND THE
SCOPE OF MEN.



IS NOT
THE BRUTAL
OCCUPATIONAL
ROLE OF AN
EXECUTIONER
PERHAPS A
LITTLE TOO MUCH
OF A BURDEN
FOR HER TO
SHOULDER?

HOWEVER,
EVEN IF YOU
BELIEVE IN YOUR
SISTER, YOU'RE
MISTAKING HER
IMPULSIVE PASSING
FANCY FOR
SOMETHING REAL,
AND FOISTING
UPON HER SOME
VERY GRIM
RESPONSIBILITIES.

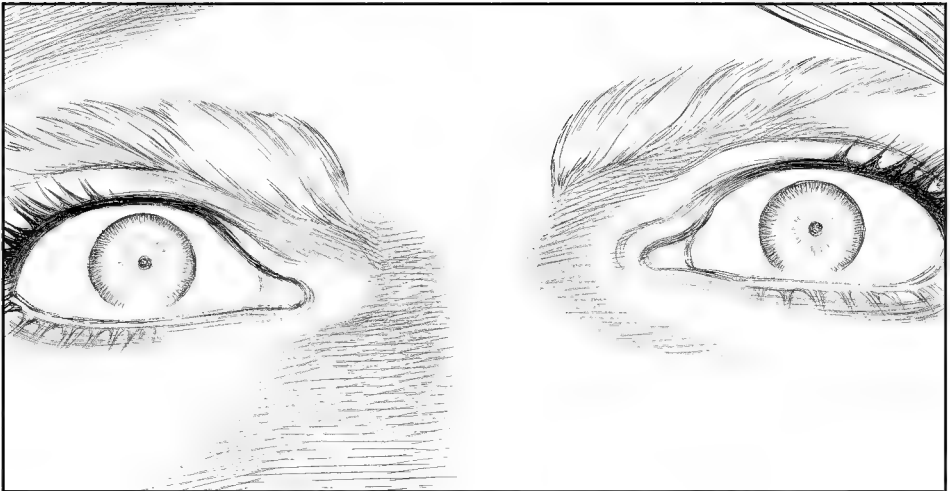


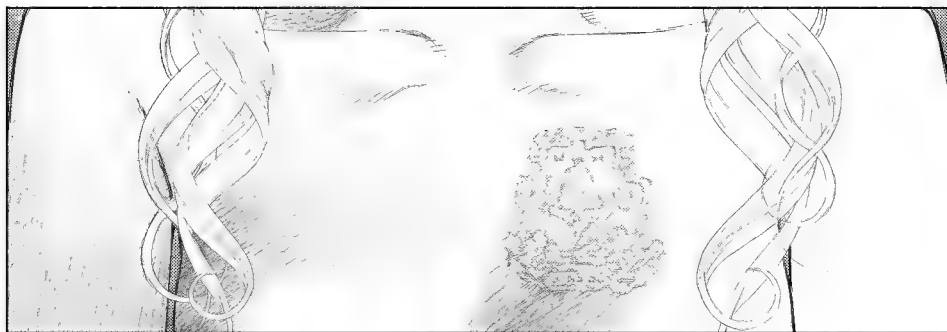
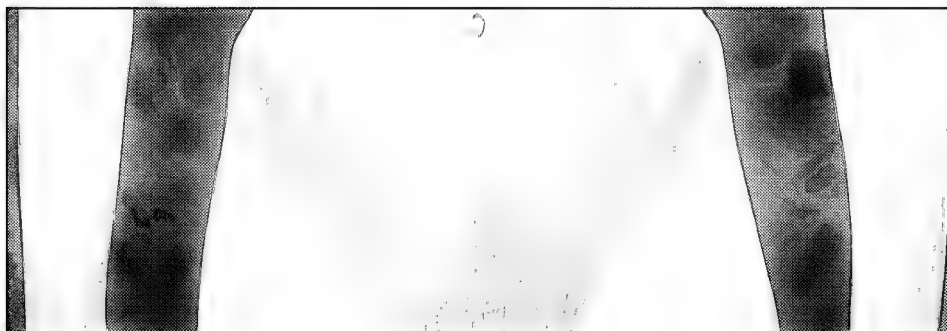
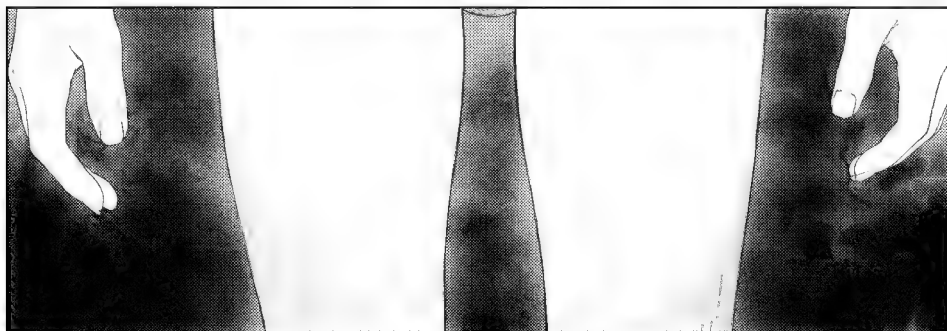
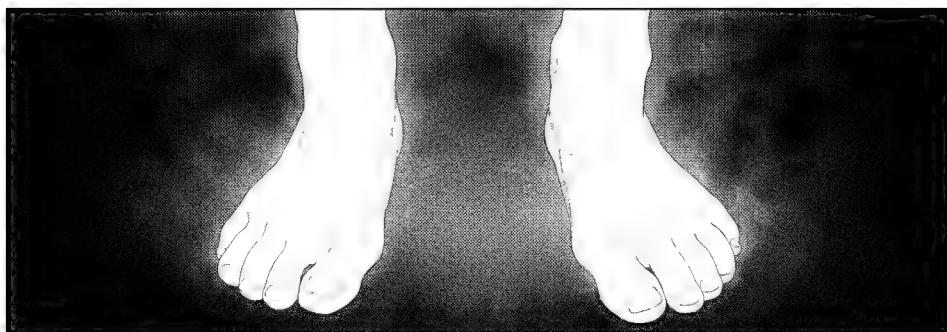
**IT'S
NOT SOME
PASSING
FANCY.**

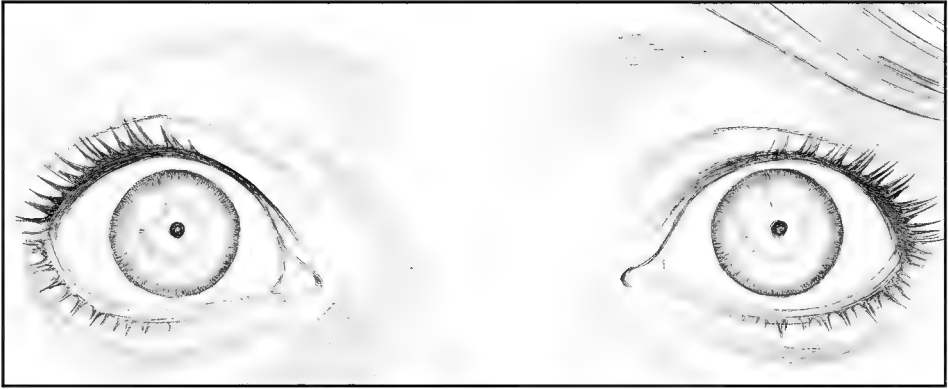


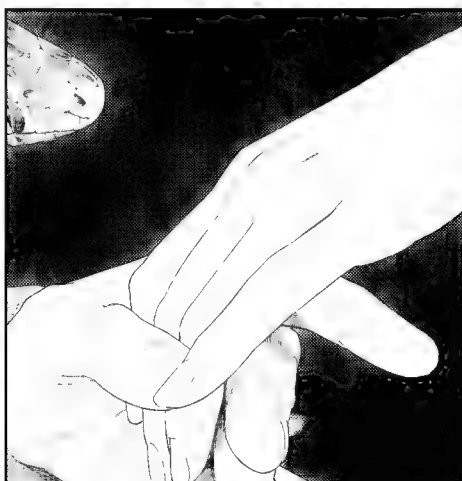
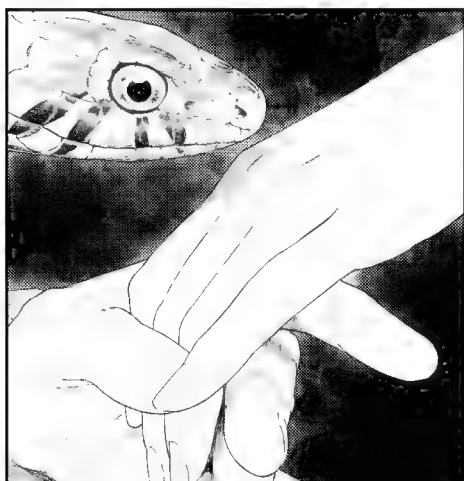
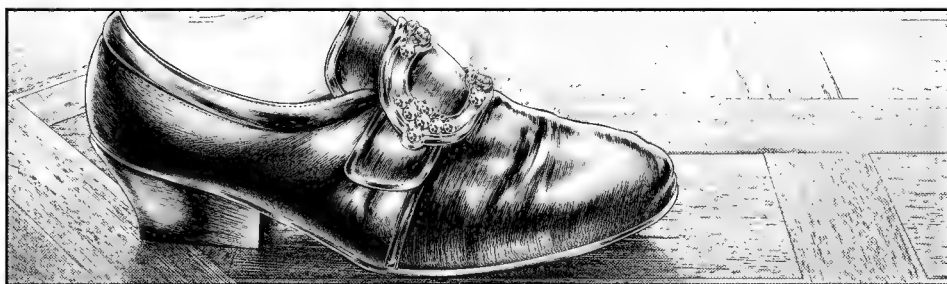
**I HAVE
NO FEAR
OF
ENDING
LIVES.**

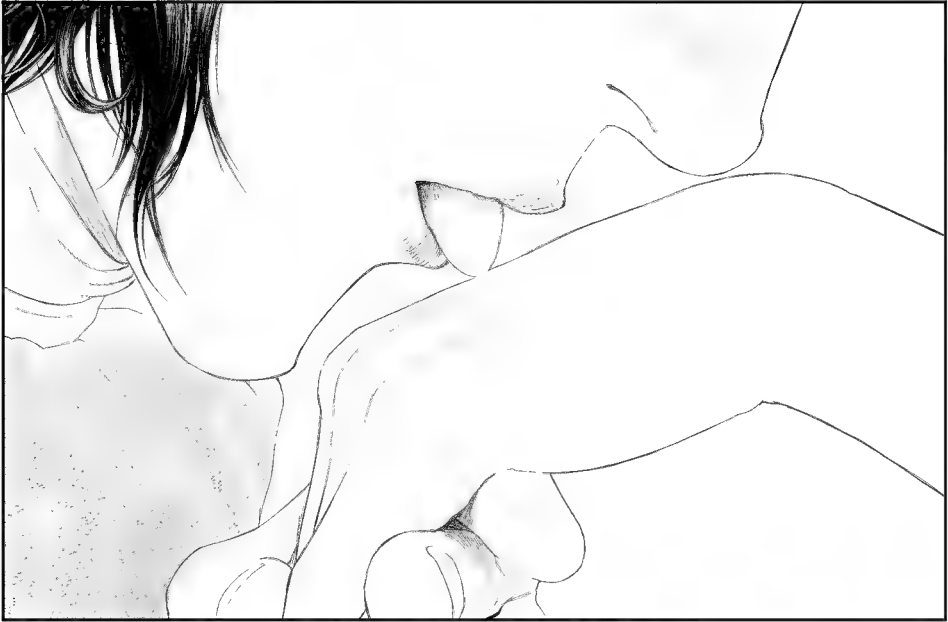
**I
WANT
TO BE AN
EXECUTIONER.**





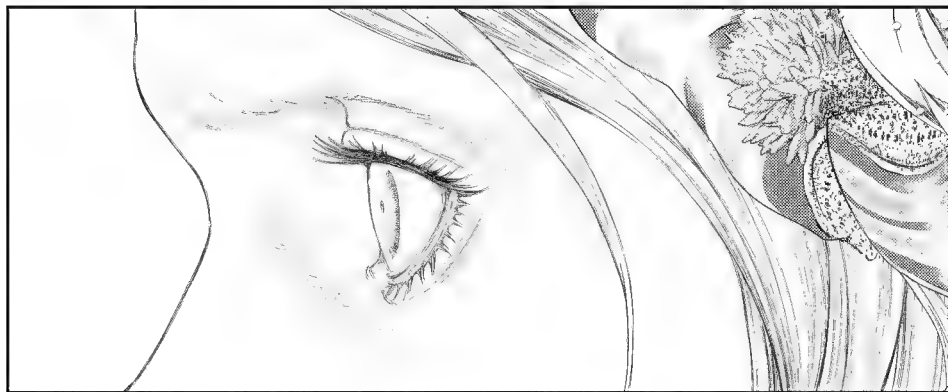


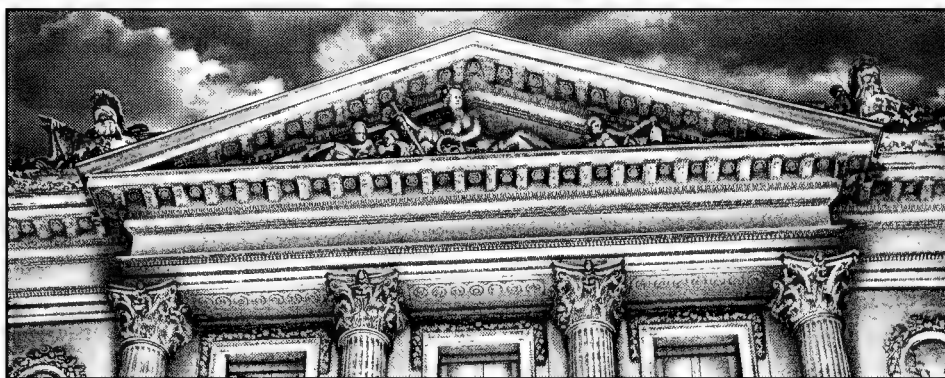
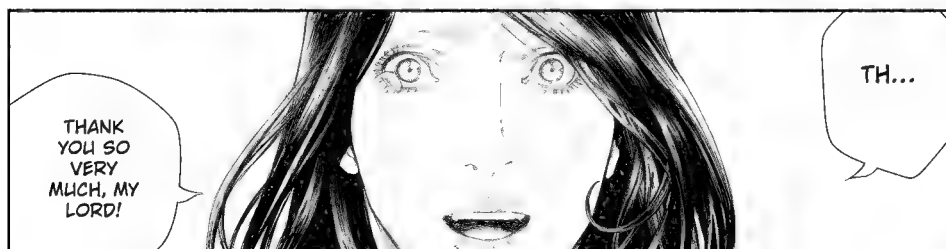


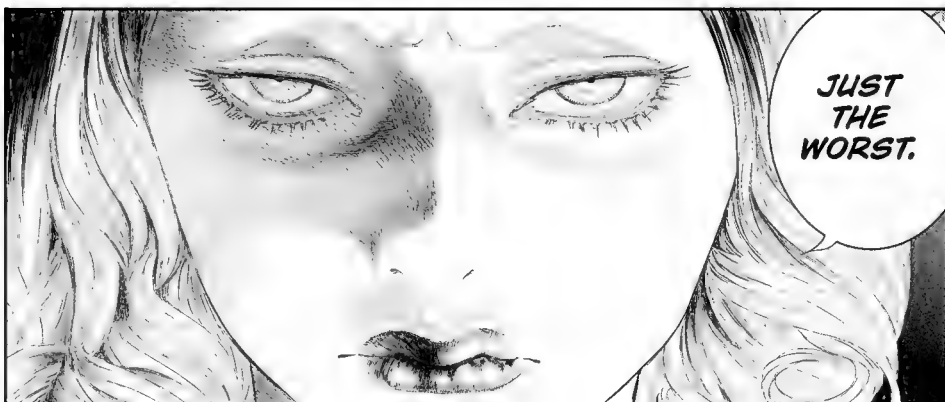




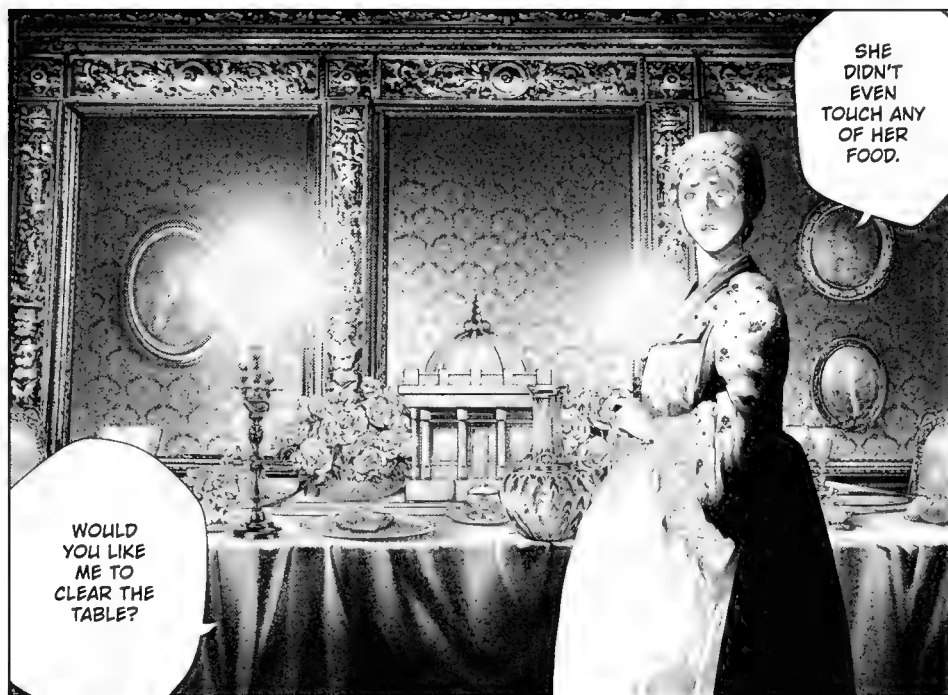


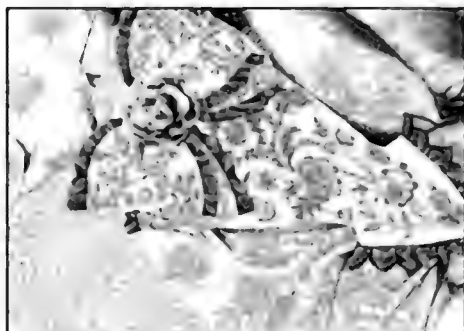




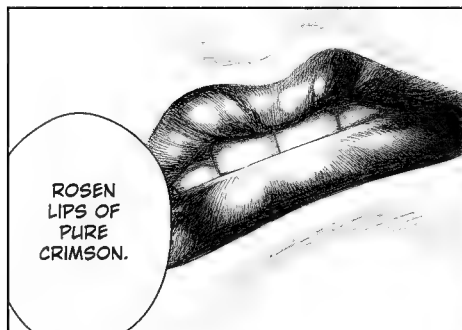


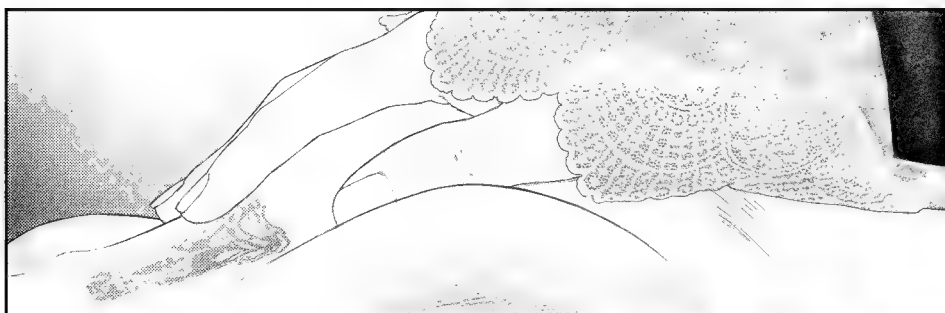
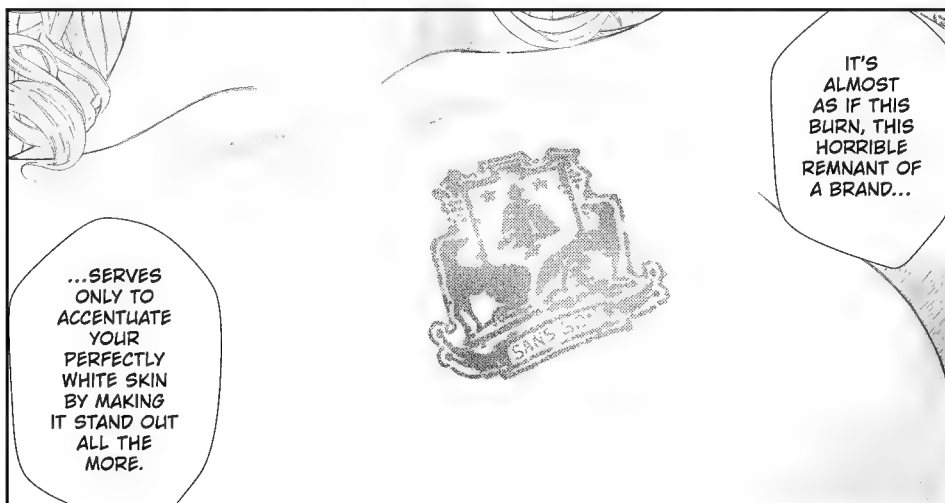














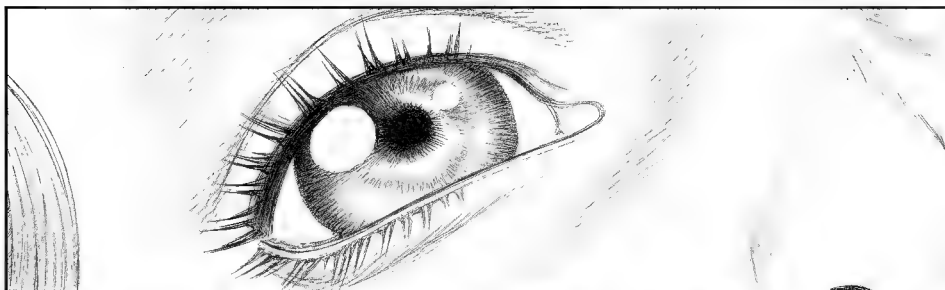
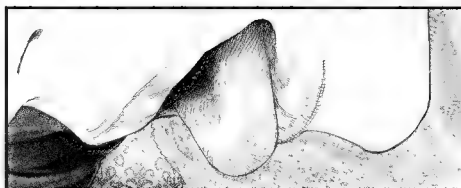


...YOU
WOULD
CERTAINLY
BE A
THING
OF
BEAUTY.

EVEN
IF YOU'RE
DRESSED
AS A MAN,
STANDING
UPON THE
EXECUTION-
ER'S
BLOCK...



ALL IT
WILL TAKE IS
MY LETTER OF
RECOMMENDATION
AND YOU SHALL
SECURE THE
ROLE OF
PRÉVÔTÉ DE
L'HÔTEL.



...JUST
DO
AS I
SAY.

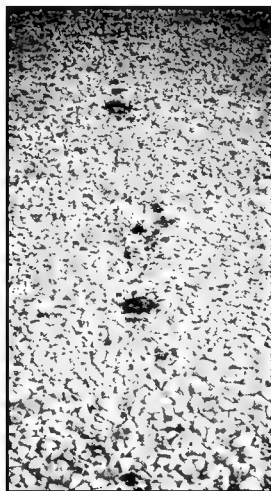
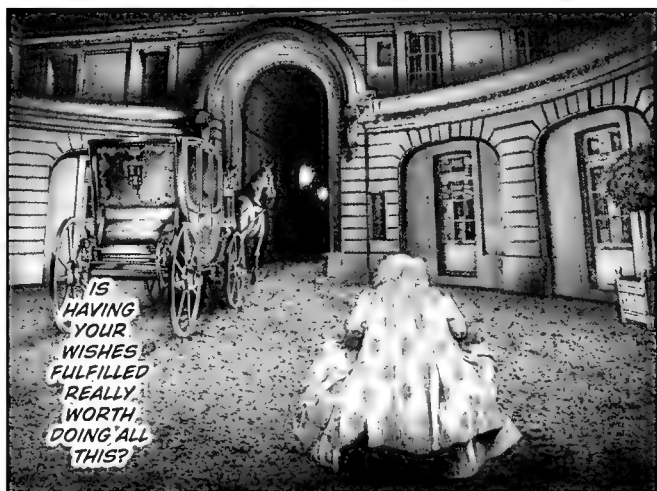
I'M
AFRAID
THIS MIGHT
HURT
A BIT,
BUT...

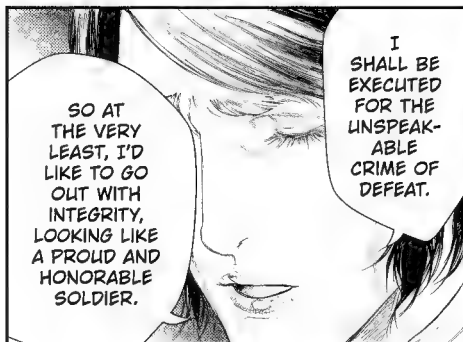
IT
WILL
ALL BE
JUST
FINE.











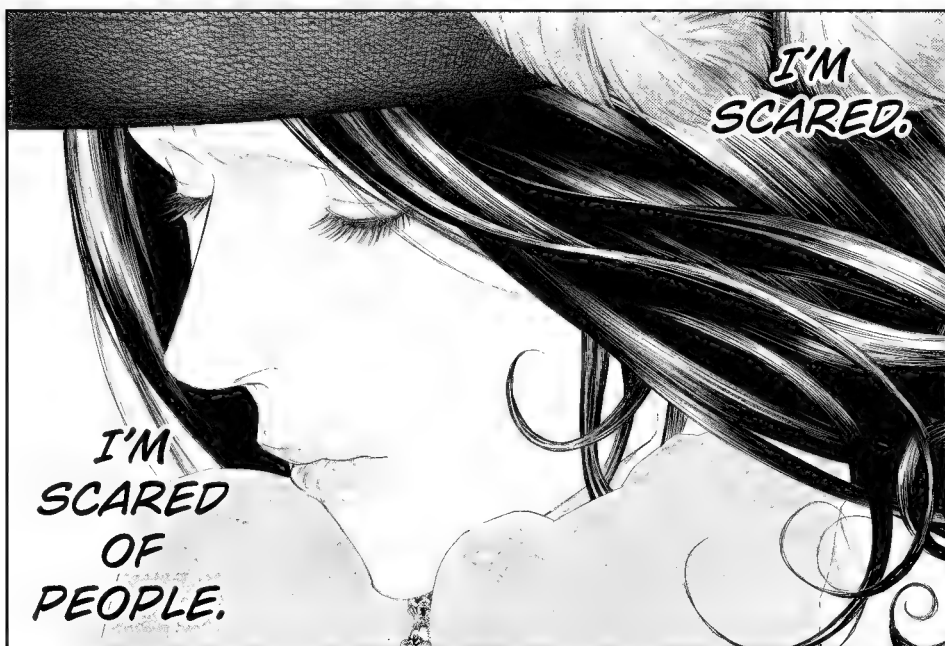
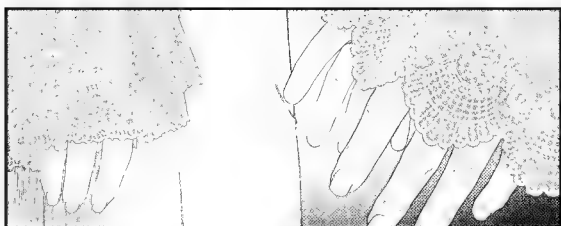


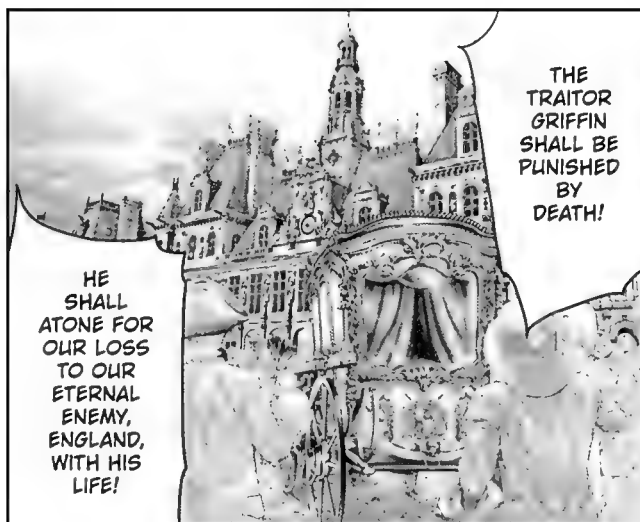
**CHARLES-
HENRI
SANSON.**

**IN
THE LONG
TIME SINCE
WE LAST
MET, YOU'VE
GROWN INTO
QUITE THE
DASHING
GENTLEMAN.**

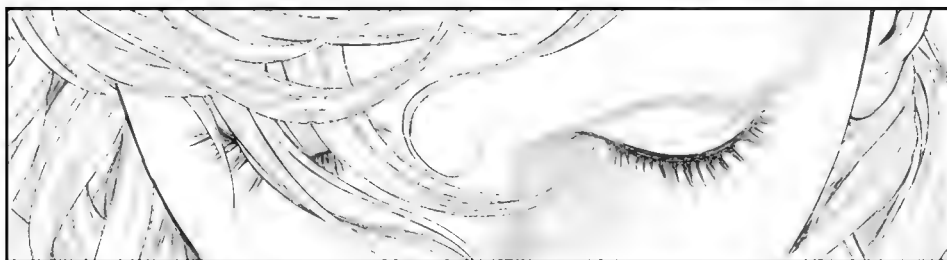
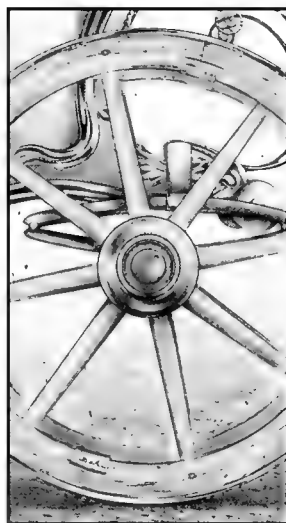
**YOU
ARE THE
PERFECT
SELECTION TO
SHOULDER
THE LIFE
BESTOWED
UPON YOU BY
MY FRIEND
BAPTISTE.**

**Fourth-generation
House Sanson,
representative
Monsieur de Paris
CHARLES-HENRI
SANSON
23 years of age**

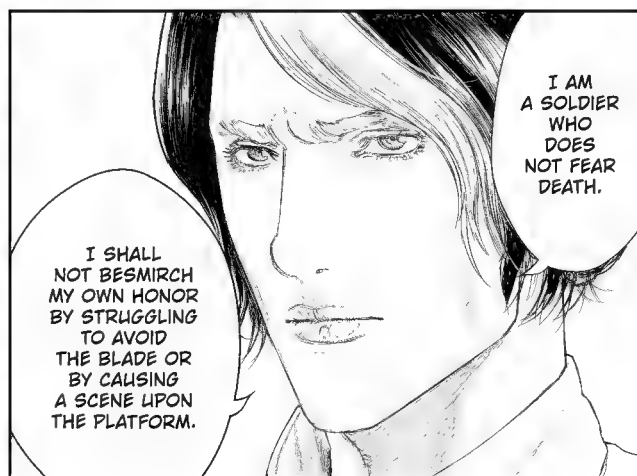
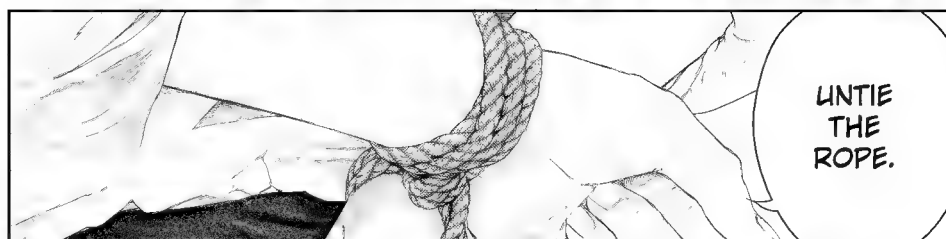




THE
TRAITOR
GRIFFIN
SHALL BE
PUNISHED
BY
DEATH!



n°45 Rise of the Comet



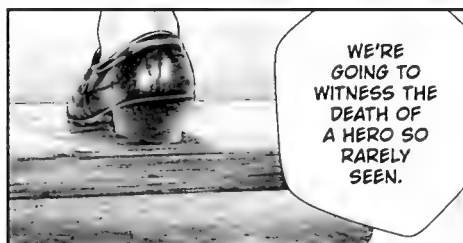


MON
AMI.



THE MOST
DASHING OF
SPECIMENS.
TRULY,
A MAN
AMONG
MEN.

PRECISELY
WHAT ONE
WOULD
EXPECT
FROM FIELD
MARSHAL
GRIFFIN.



WE'RE
GOING TO
WITNESS THE
DEATH OF
A HERO SO
RARELY
SEEN.



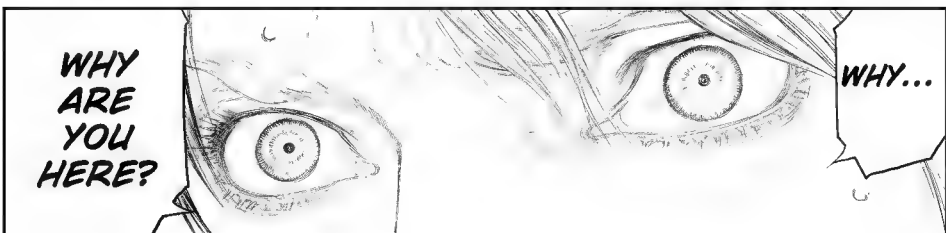
BUT
GIVEN
YOUR
AFFLICTION,
I REALIZE
THAT IT'S
QUITE AN
ASK.

I WOULD
HAVE
PREFERRED
THAT WERE
I TO DIE,
IT WOULD
BE BY
YOUR
HAND.



...I AM
ABLE TO
ENTRUST
THIS NECK
TO YOUR
SON.

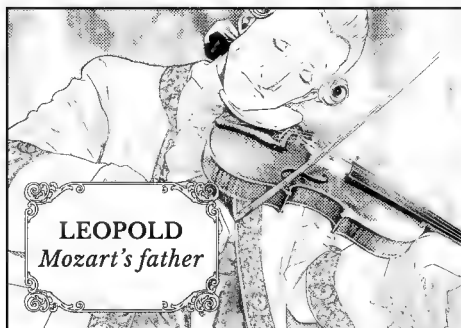
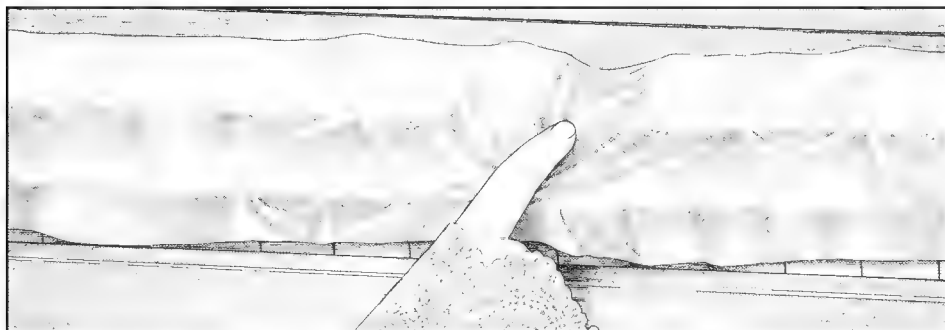
AT THE
VERY
LEAST...



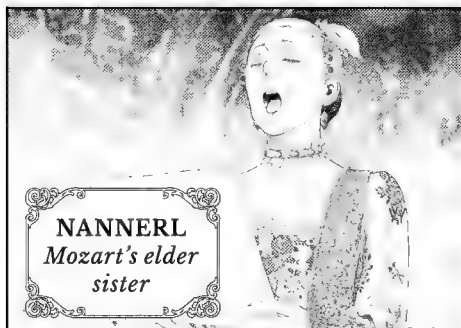


*Vienna,
Austria*

*Schönbrunn
Palace*



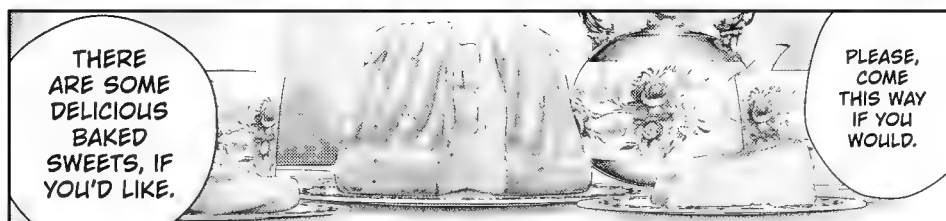
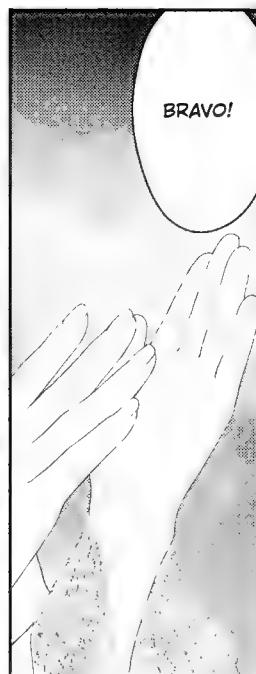
LEOPOLD
Mozart's father

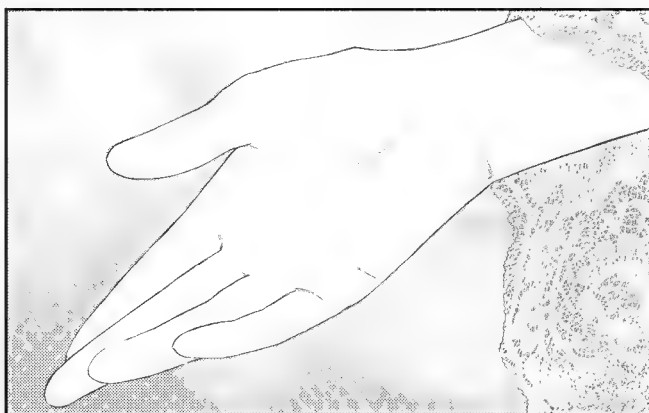
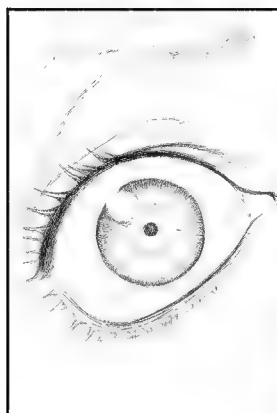
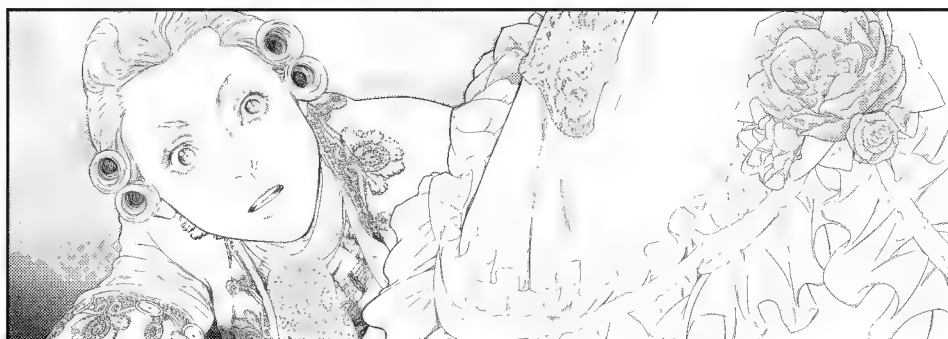


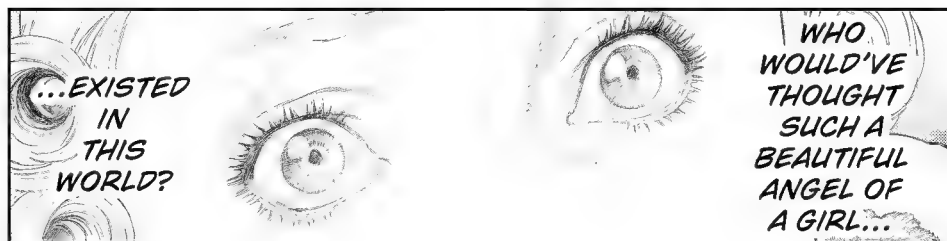
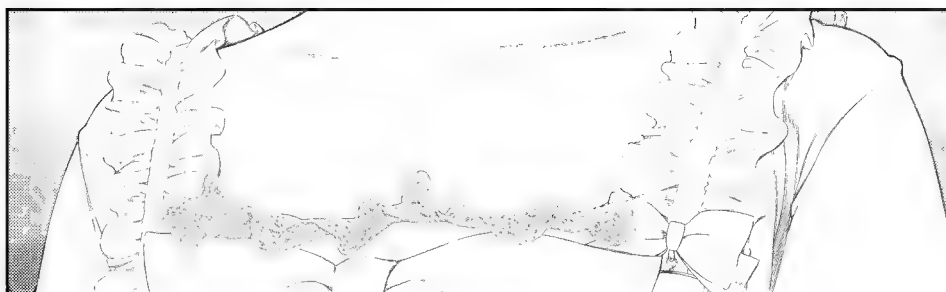
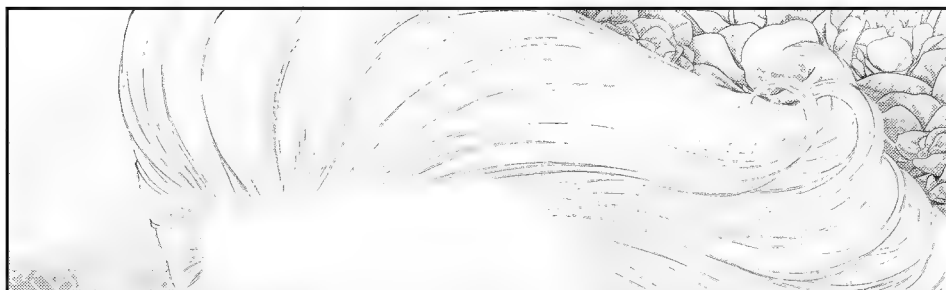
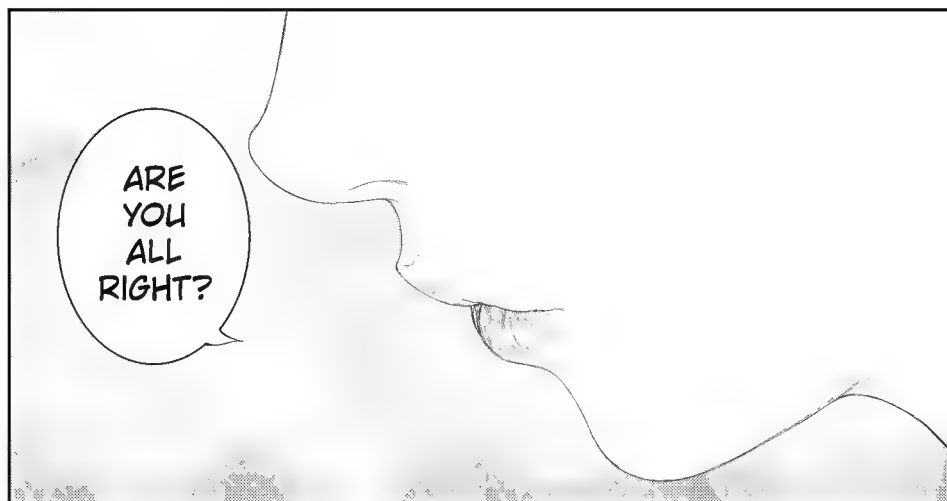
NANNERL
Mozart's elder sister



**WOLFGANG
AMADEUS
MOZART**
Six years of age













THIS
AIN'T
PLAYIN'
HOUSE,
LI'L MISS...
NOW GIT
ON
HOME!

AIN'T
NO WAY
SOME LI'L
GIRL CAN
PERFORM
AN
EXECUTION
PROPERLY
THOUGH!



A-A
WOMAN?!

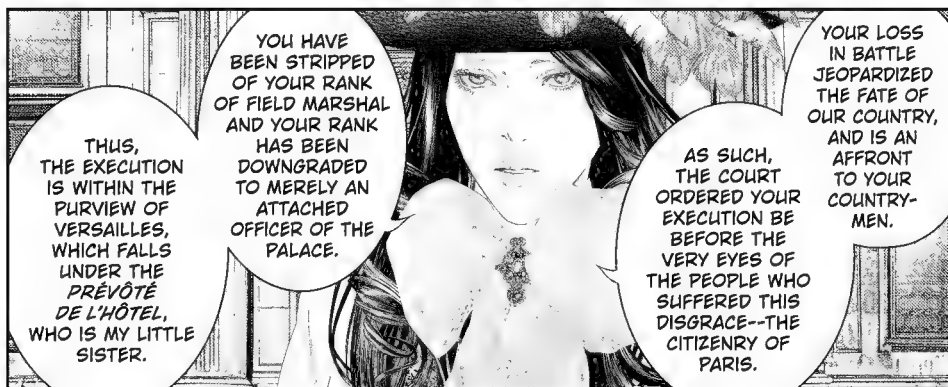


LOOK!
A FEMALE
EXECUTIONER!

AND...
A KID,
TO
BOOT!



MONSIEUR
GRIFFIN.

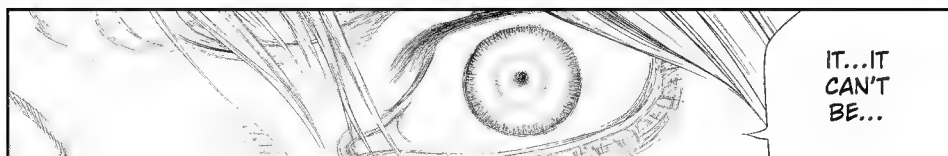


THUS,
THE EXECUTION
IS WITHIN THE
PURVIEW OF
VERSAILLES,
WHICH FALLS
UNDER THE
PRÉVÔTE
DE L'HÔTEL,
WHO IS MY LITTLE
SISTER.

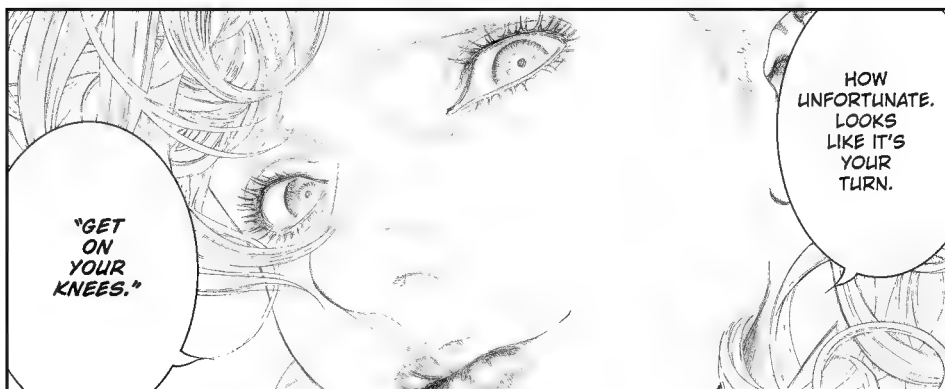
YOU HAVE
BEEN STRIPPED
OF YOUR RANK
OF FIELD MARSHAL
AND YOUR RANK
HAS BEEN
DOWNGRADED
TO MERELY AN
ATTACHED
OFFICER OF THE
PALACE.

AS SUCH,
THE COURT
ORDERED YOUR
EXECUTION BE
BEFORE THE
VERY EYES OF
THE PEOPLE WHO
SUFFERED THIS
DISGRACE--THE
CITIZENRY OF
PARIS.

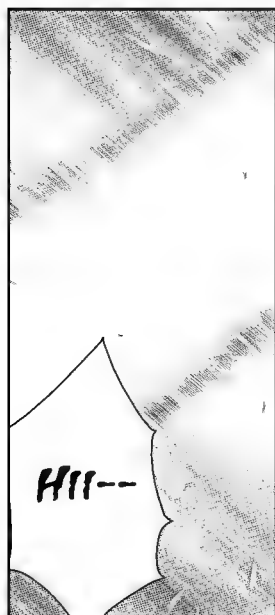
YOUR LOSS
IN BATTLE
JEOPARDIZED
THE FATE OF
OUR COUNTRY,
AND IS AN
AFFRONT
TO YOUR COUNTRY-
MEN.



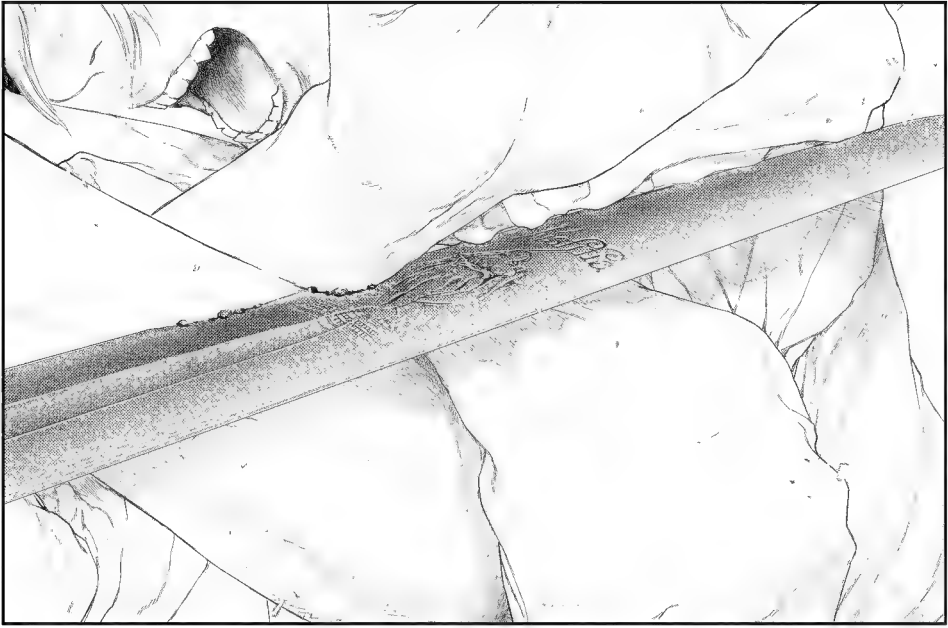
IT...IT
CAN'T
BE...



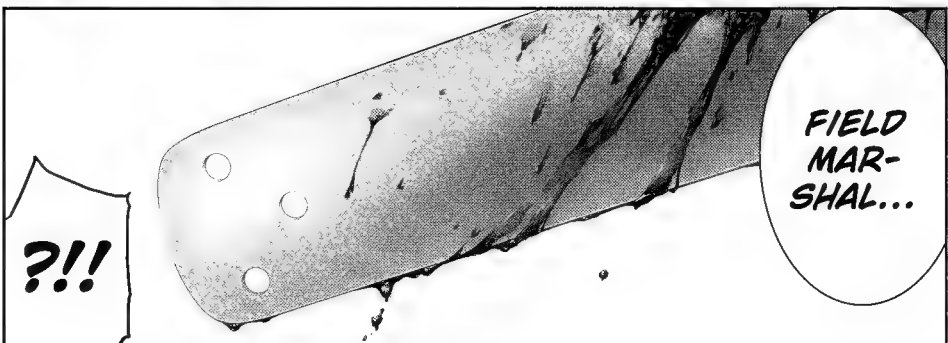










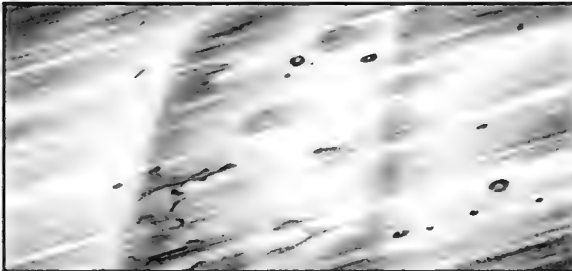
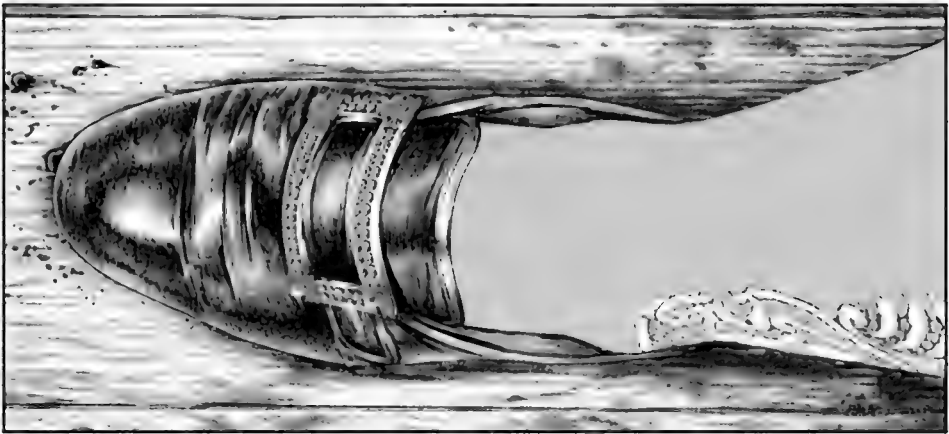




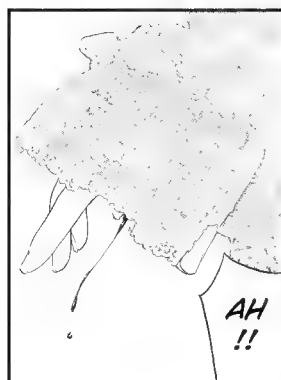
I'LL
KILL YOU
ONCE I FEEL
SATISFIED
I'VE HAD MY
SHARE OF
FUN WITH
YOU.

BUT
ONLY ONCE
I'VE
HAD
ENOUGH.

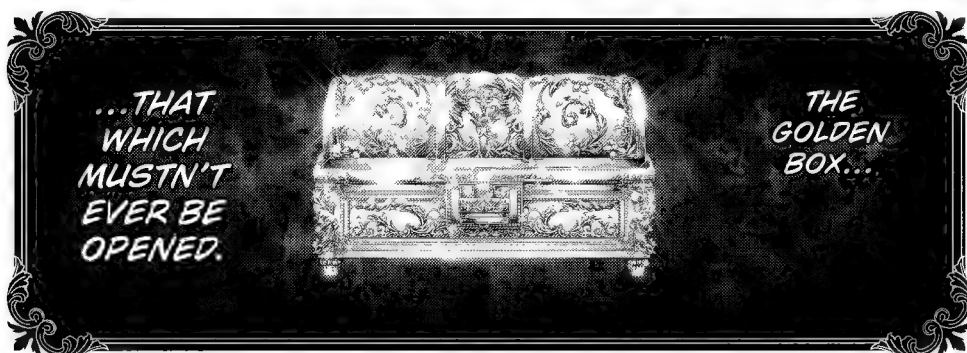
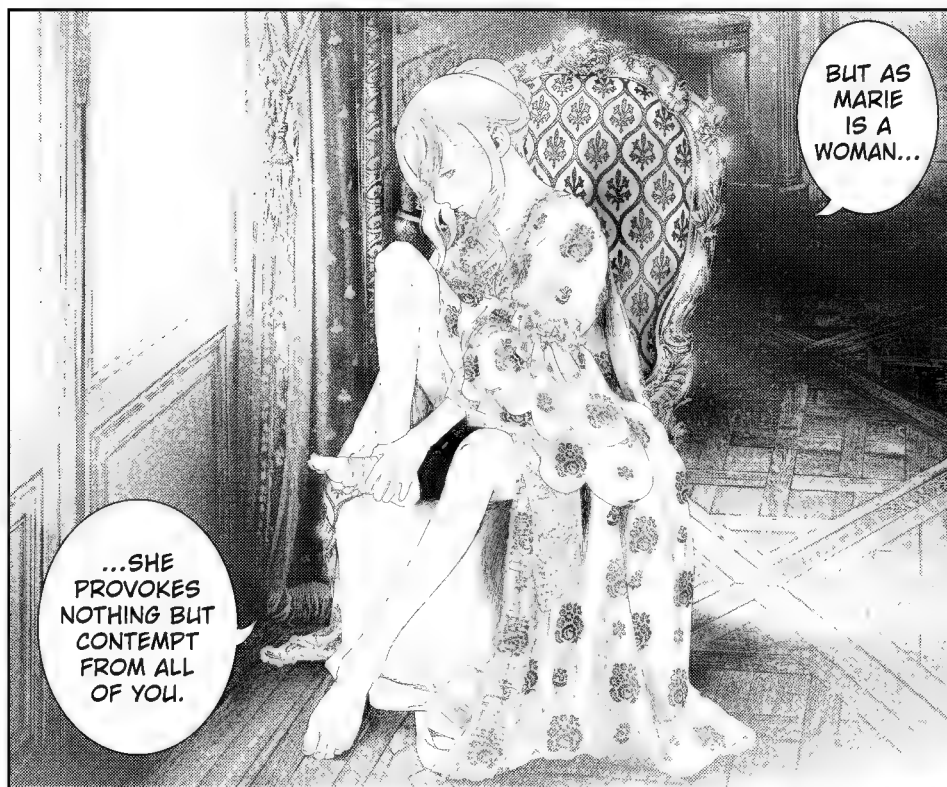
n°46 The Red Struggle







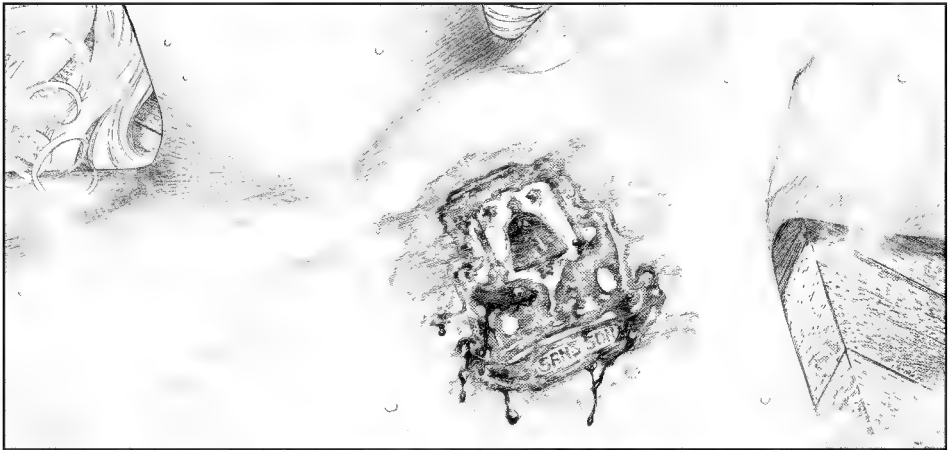




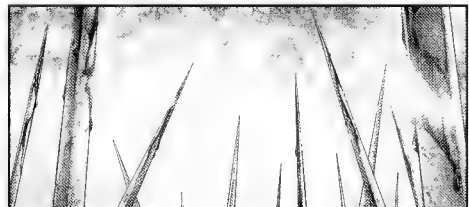
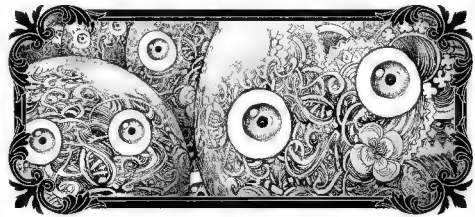


...DISEASE,
LARCENY,
JEALOUSY,
HATRED--
EVERY
INCARNATION
OF EVIL
ON THIS
EARTH--
BURST
FORTH
FROM THAT
BOX AND
BLANKETED
ITSELF
AROUND
HER AND
THE
WORLD.

THE
VERY
MOMENT
THAT THE
BEAUTIFUL
LITTLE
GIRL
PANDORA
OPENED
THAT
BOX...



**GIT
THAT
GIRL
OUTTA
HERE!**

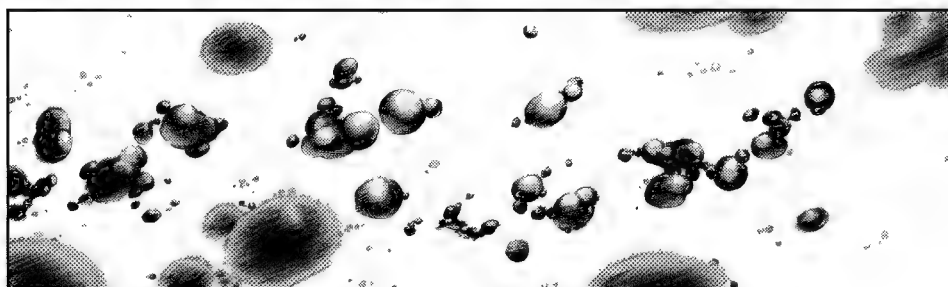
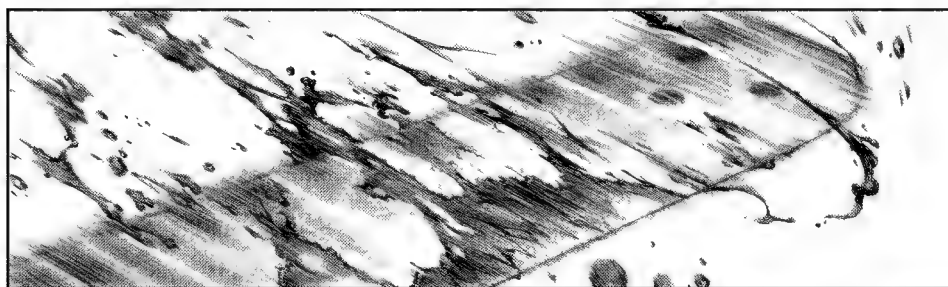
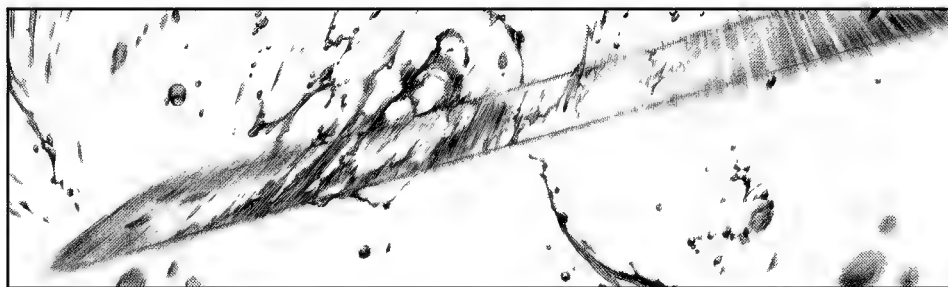


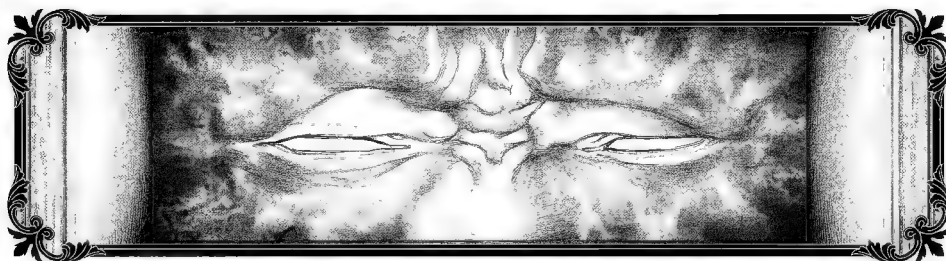
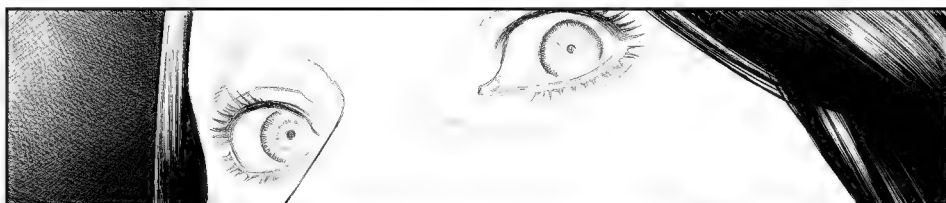
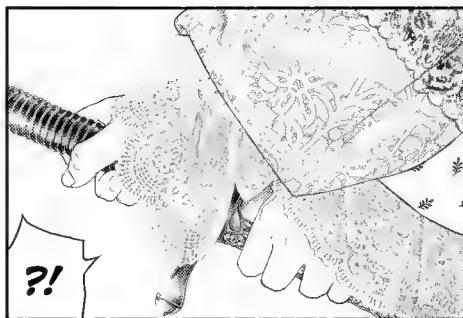


...WOULD
BE HURT
BY ANY
AND ALL
MALICES
IN THE
WORLD.
THAT
WHICH
THE
AVERAGE
PERSON
WOULD
NEVER
SUFFER
WOULD BE
ETCHED
INTO
HER
BODY.

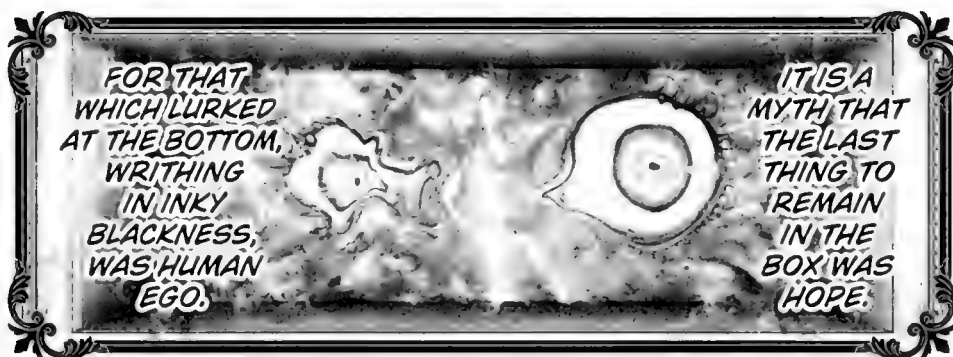
FOR
THE ONE
THAT
WOULD
OPEN
THAT
FOR-
BIDDEN
BOX...

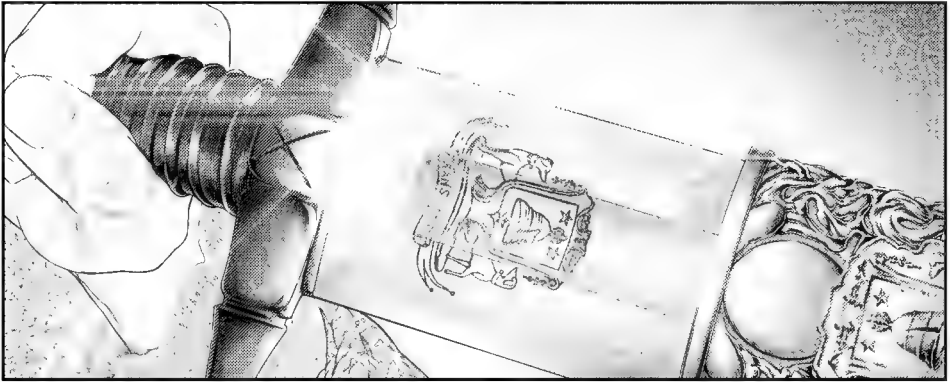
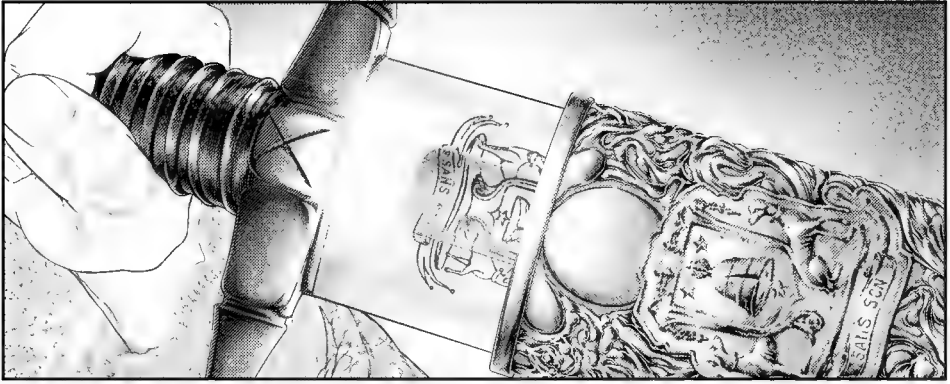






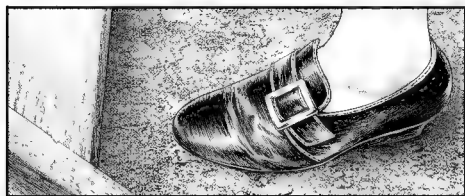






n°47 The Sword That Sparks Life



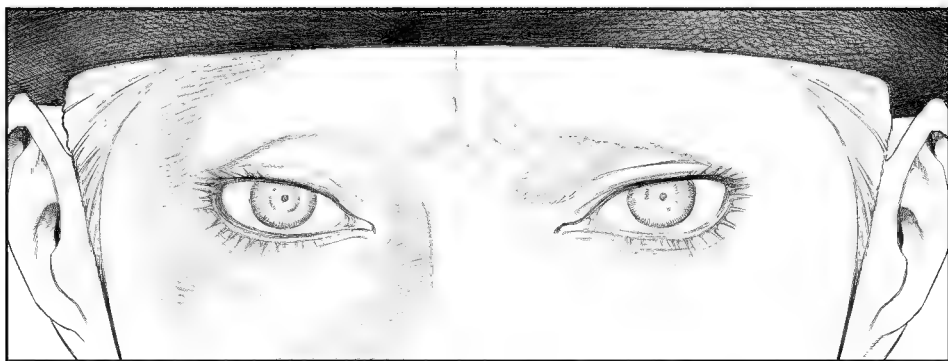


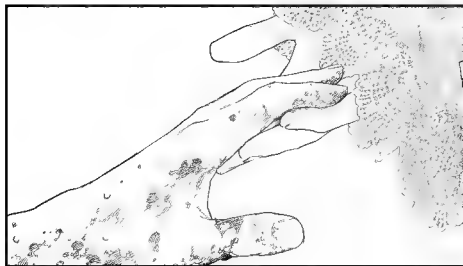
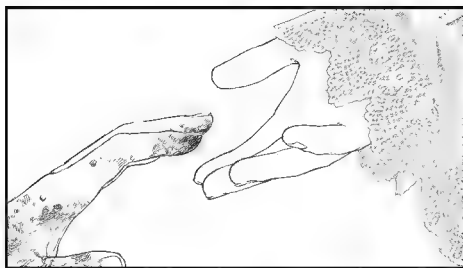


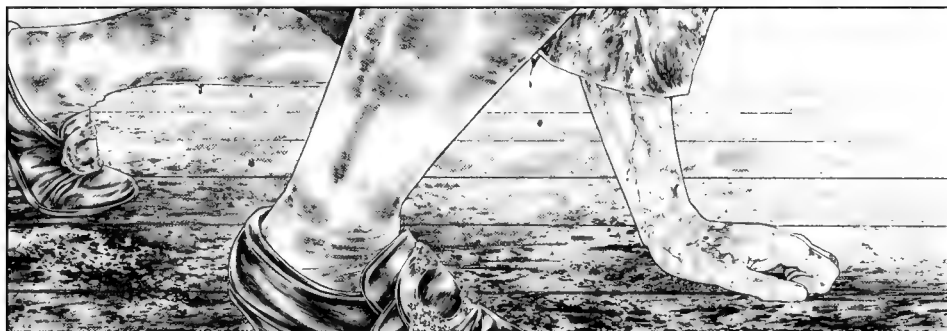
IT'S THE
MONSIEUR
DE
PARIS!

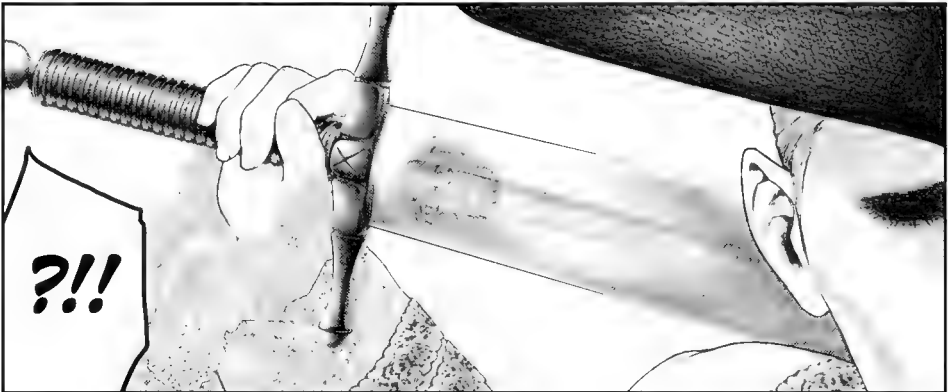
IT'S
THE
THIRD-
GENERA-
TION
MONSIEUR
DE
PARIS--

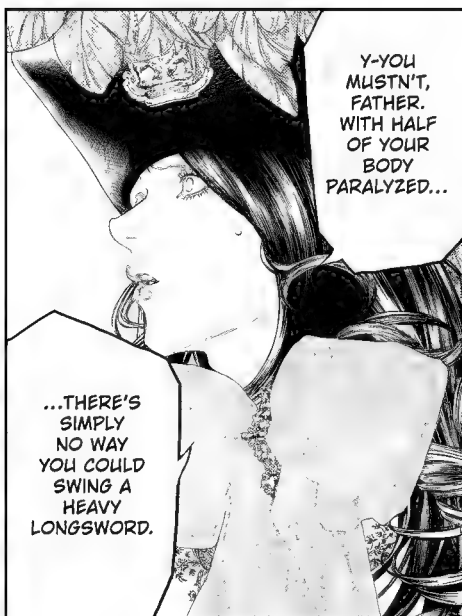
JEAN-
BAPTISTE
IS
HERE!



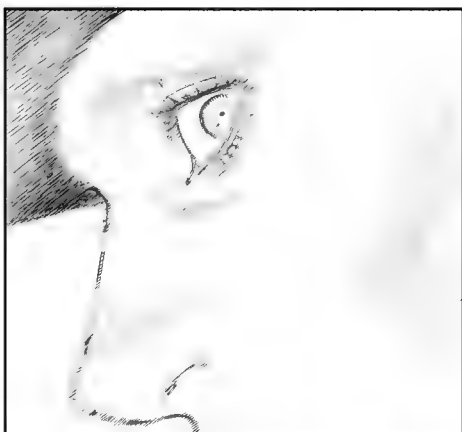
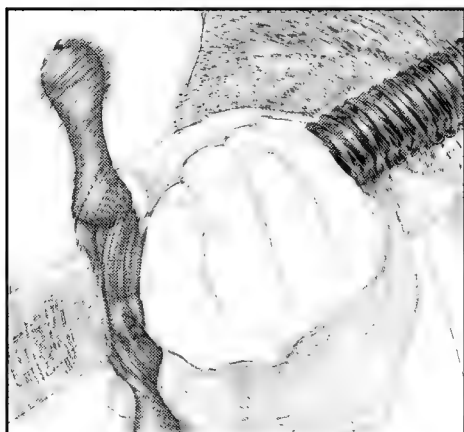


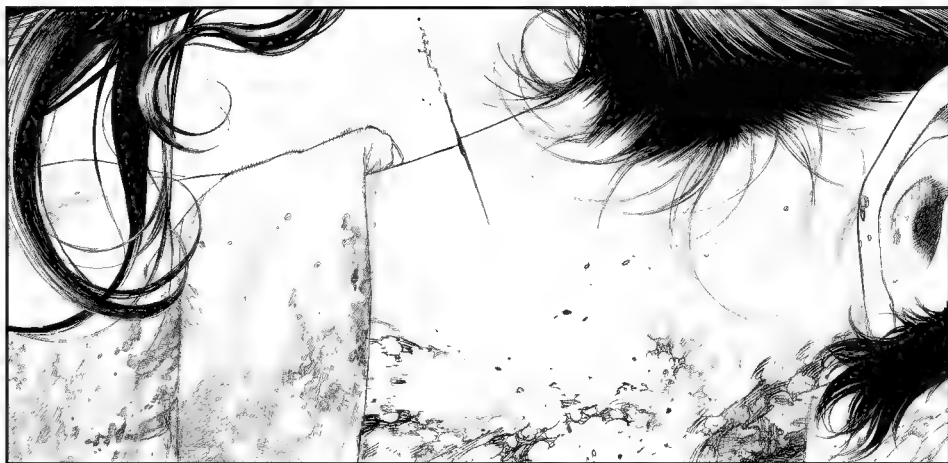
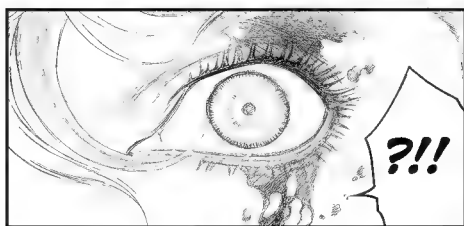
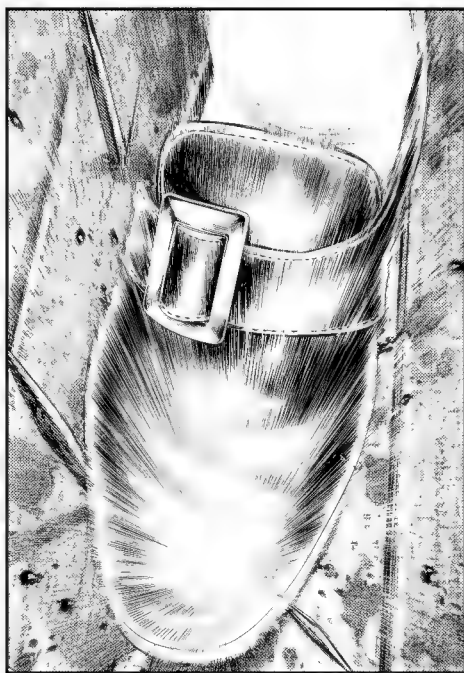




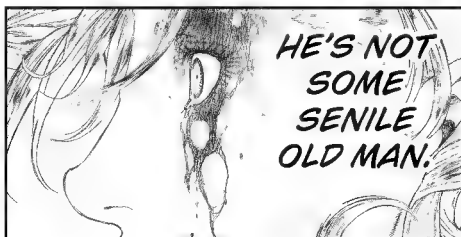
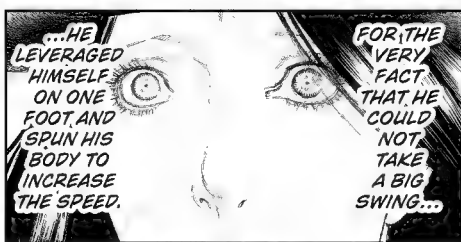
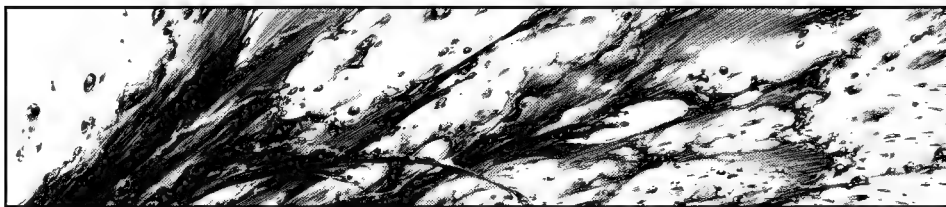


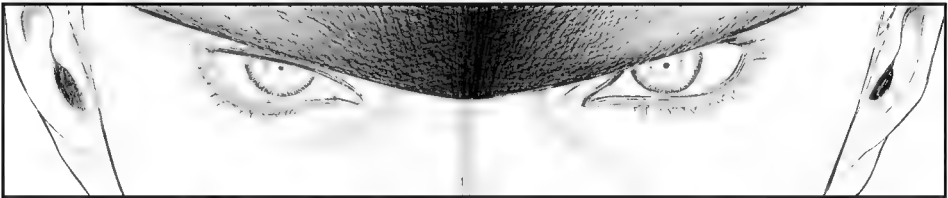
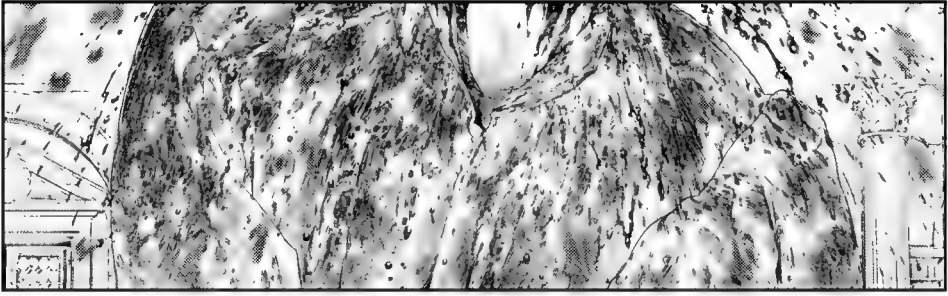


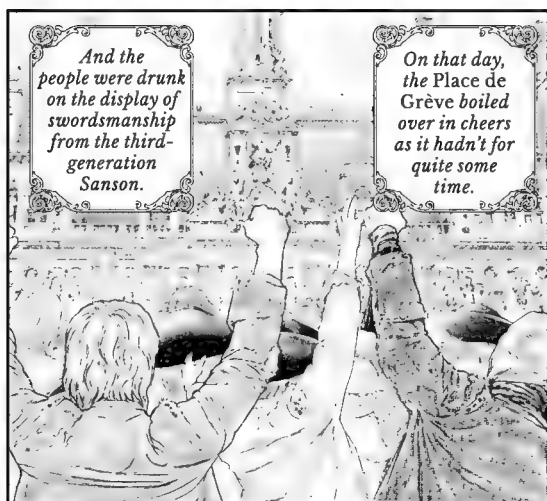


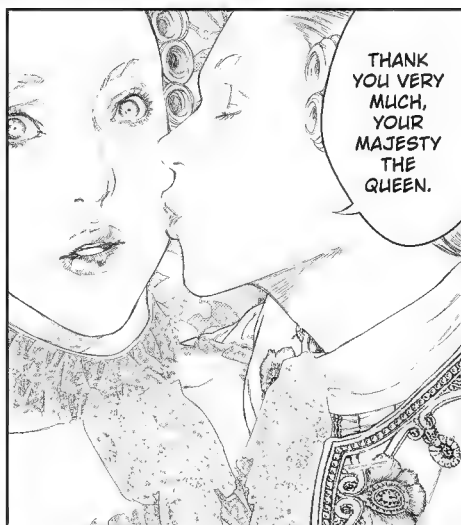


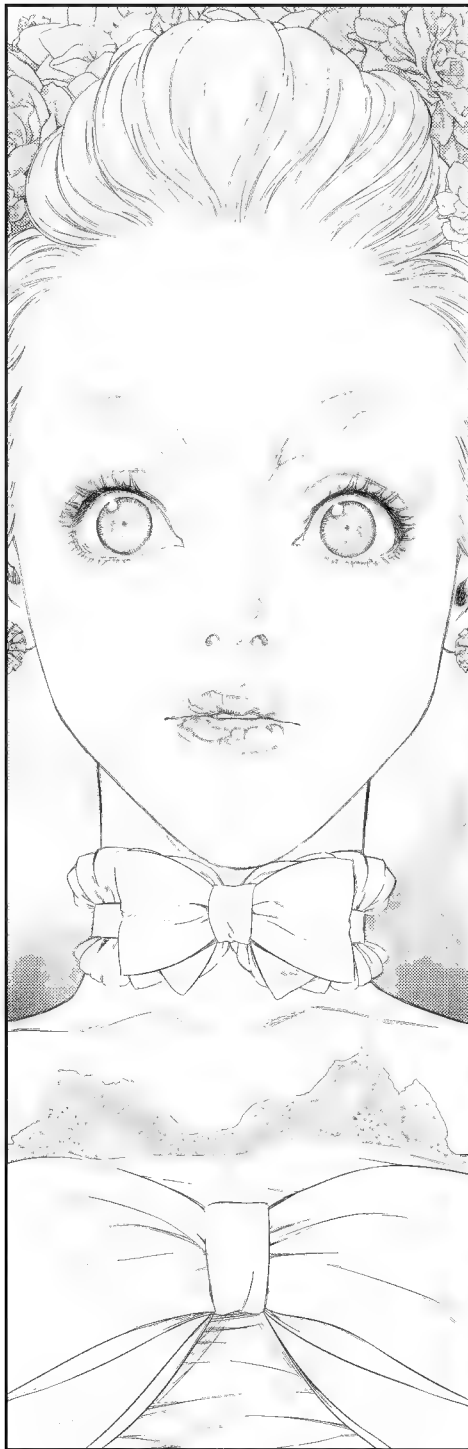












n°48 Marie's Thorny Path



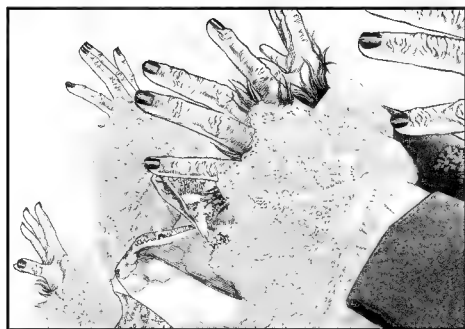
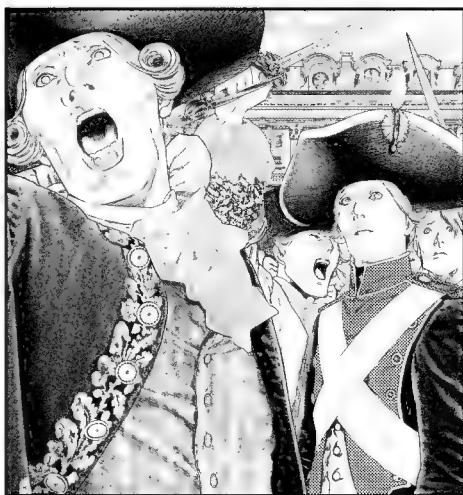
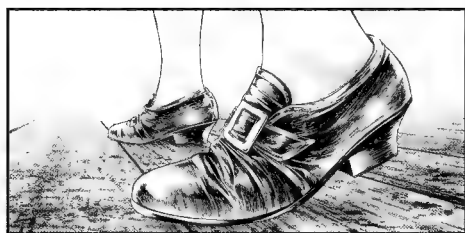
**VIVE
LA
FRANCE!**

**VIVE
LA
FRANCE!**

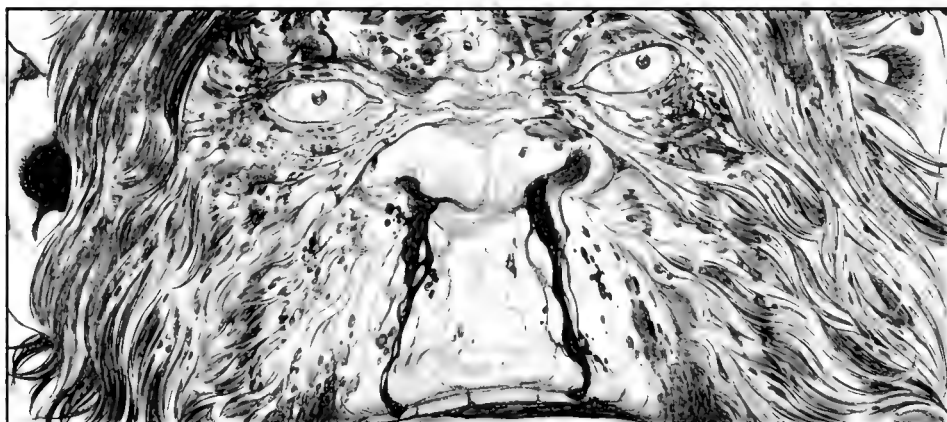
**WE HAVE
GIVEN THE
DESERVED,
HONORABLE
DEATH TO
LORD
GRIFFIN.**

**LET US
CELEBRATE
THE
MANLY
SPIRIT...**

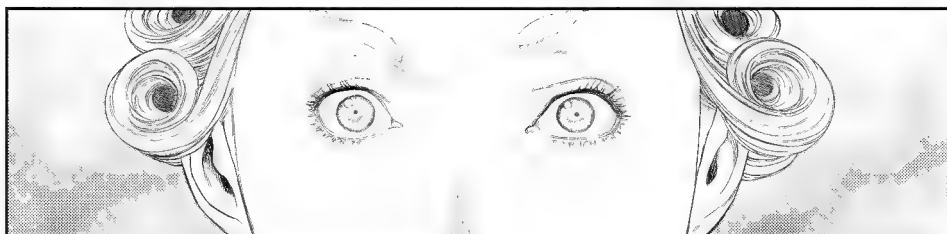
**...OF
THE THIRD-
GENERATION
MONSIEUR DE
PARIS, JEAN
BAPTISTE,
WHO WAS
ROUSED
BY THE
COURAGE
OF LORD
GRIFFIN!**













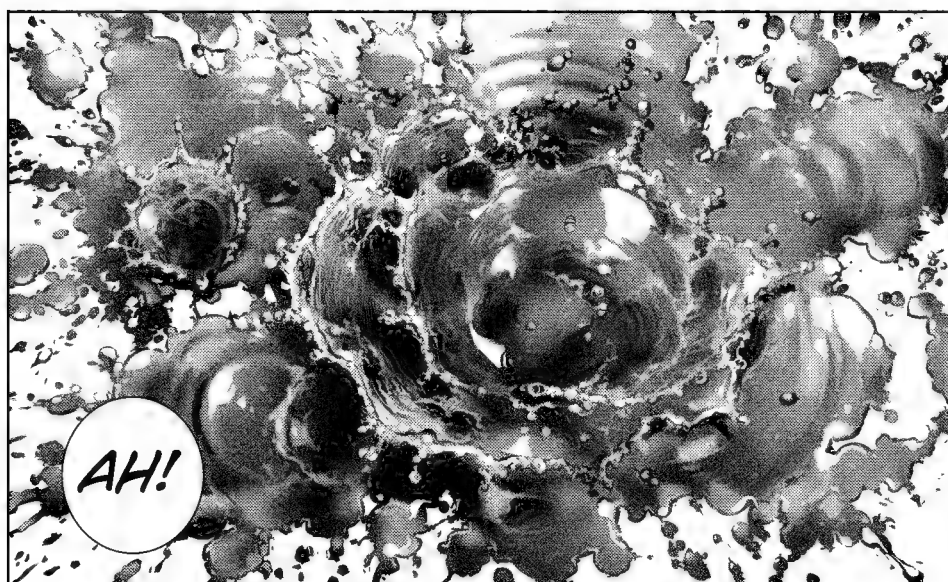
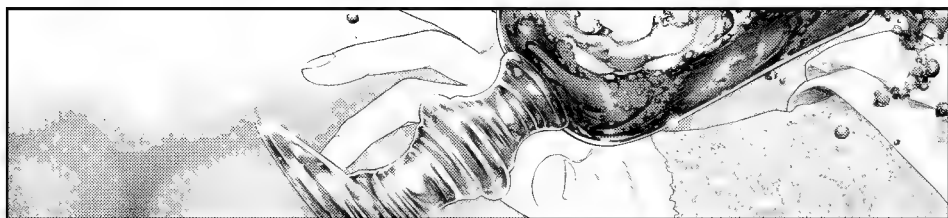
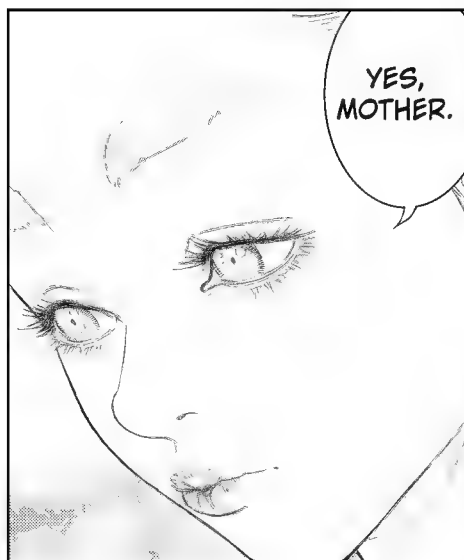
A WOMAN
TRULY LIVES
IN ORDER TO
BE OBEDIENT
TO HER PARENTS,
HER HUSBAND,
AND
EVENTUALLY,
HER
CHILDREN.

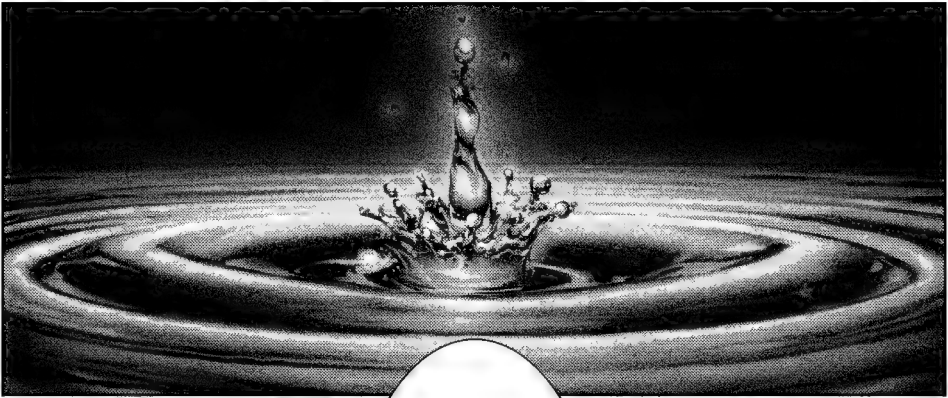
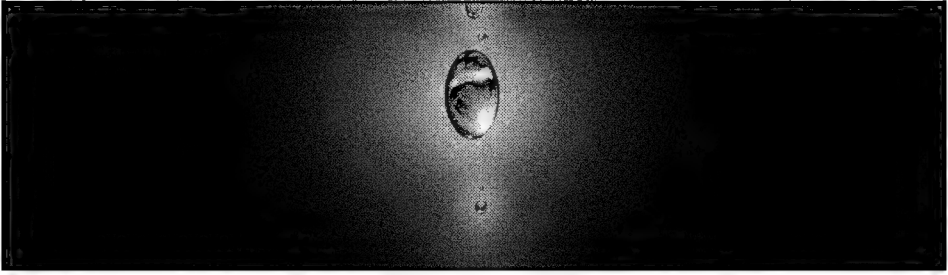
THUS,
THE AUSTRIAN
PRINCESS,
MARIA ANTONIA,
HAS NO
FREEDOMS.



THOSE
WHO SET OFF
WITHOUT A PATH
LOSE SIGHT OF
THEIR HOMES, NEVER
ABLE TO RETURN--
WITH NO CHOICE
BUT TO WANDER
AIMLESSLY IN
THE WILDERNESS,
AND DIE
ALONE.

MARIE-
JOSEPH,
YOU HAVE
BEEN
GIVEN
FAR TOO
MUCH
FREEDOM.





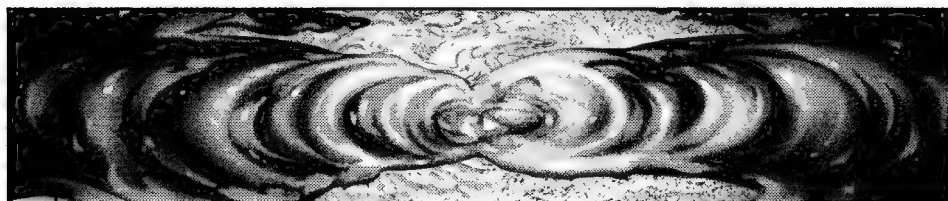
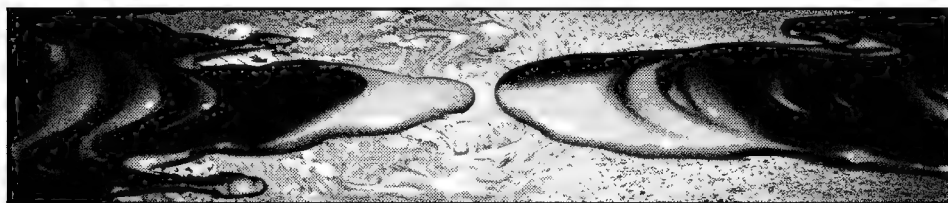
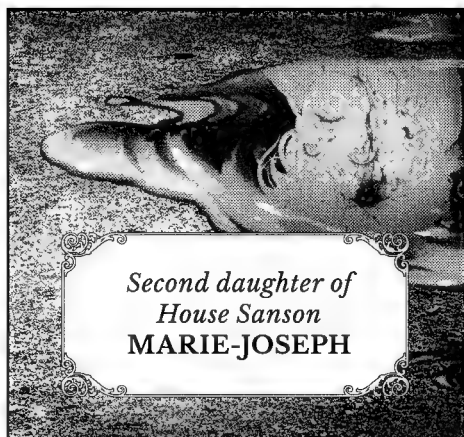
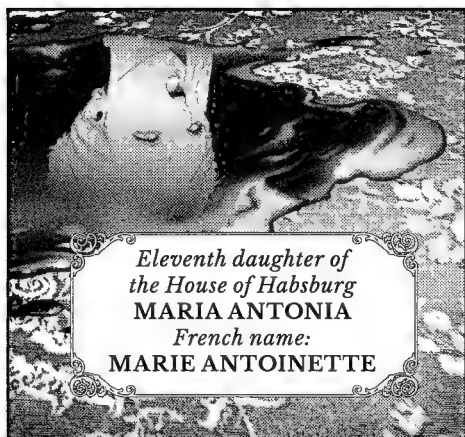


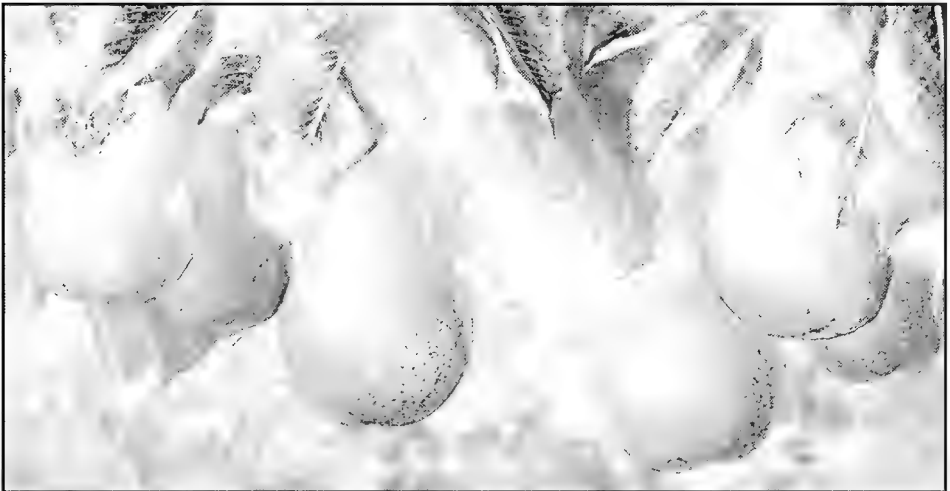
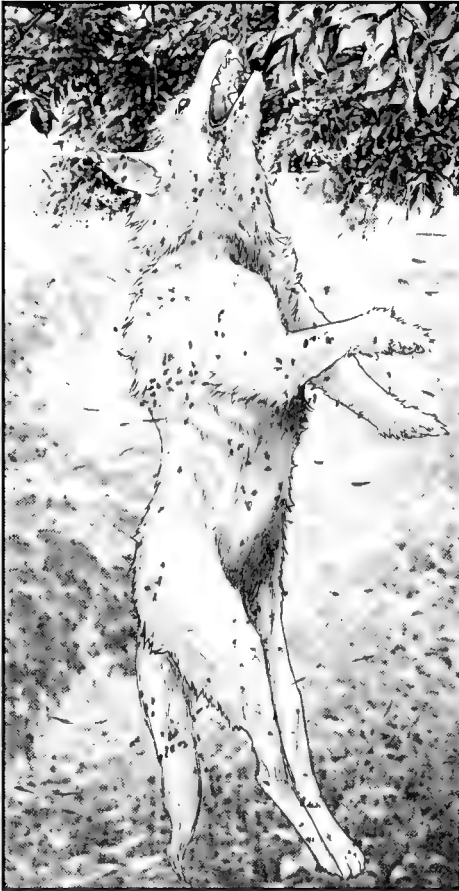
"...WHO
STRAYS
FROM
HER
PATH..."





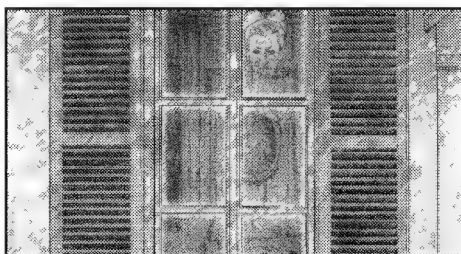
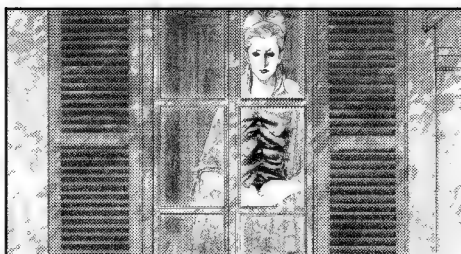
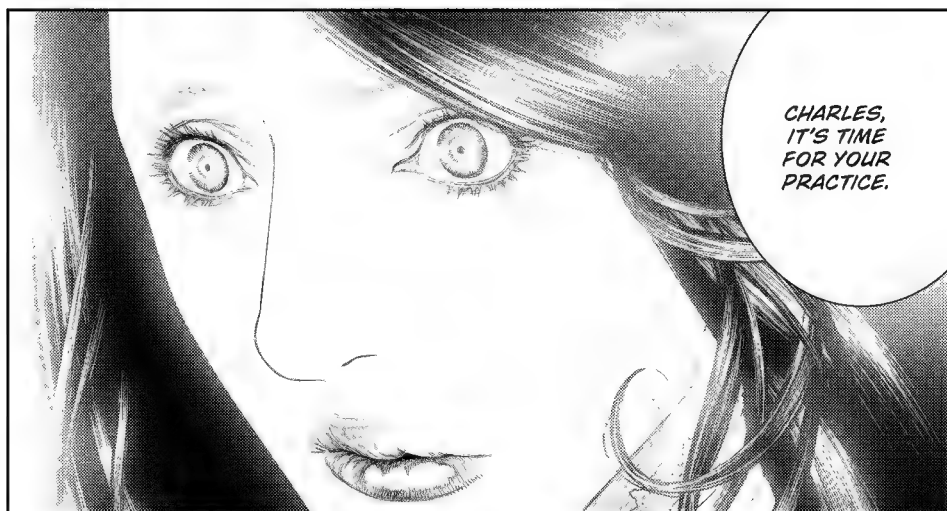






...NOW
SITS
INNOCENTLY,
BEARING
FRUIT IN
ABUNDANCE,
AS IF
NOTHING
HAD EVER
HAPPENED.

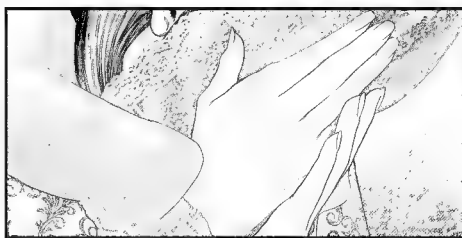
EVEN
THIS
PEAR TREE,
FROM
WHICH
DOGS
WERE
ONCE
HUNG AND
USED FOR
FLAYING
PRACTICE...

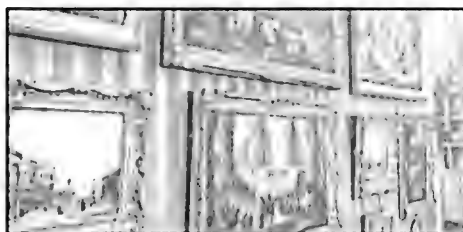






EVER SINCE THE DAY WHEN HER FACE HAD BEEN SCARRED, SHE SEEMED TO HAVE LOST HER FORMER AIR OF DIGNITY, AND BEGAN TO AVOID ME AND MARIE.













THAT
PIECE-
OF-SHIT
GEEZER
GRIFFIN.

I
WANTED
TO CUT HIS
HEART
FROM HIS
CHEST
AND MINCE
IT UP.

GOD
DAMN IT,
I'M SO
PISSED.



L-
LADY
MARIE...

WHAT
IN THE
LORD'S
NAME
IS GOING
ON
HERE?

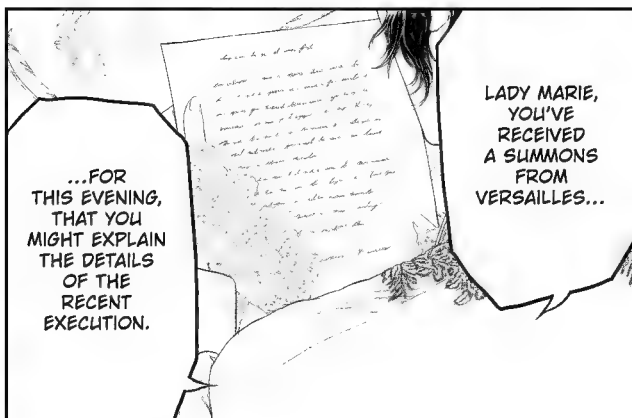


Y-
YES,
MADEMOI-
SELLE.

NOW
HURRY UP
AND
READ ME
THE
LETTER.



COULD
THIS
BE YOUR
DISENFRAN-
CHISEMENT
AS
PRÉVÔTÉ DE
L'HÔTEL?!



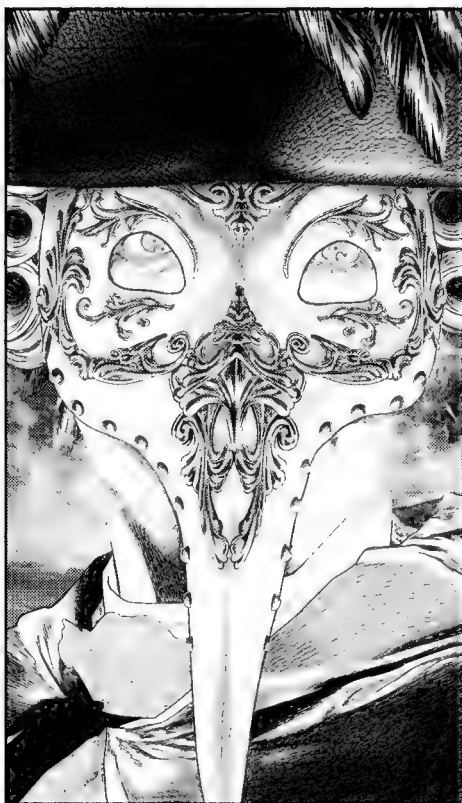
...FOR
THIS EVENING,
THAT YOU
MIGHT EXPLAIN
THE DETAILS
OF THE
RECENT
EXECUTION.

LADY MARIE,
YOU'VE
RECEIVED
A SUMMONS
FROM
VERSAILLES...









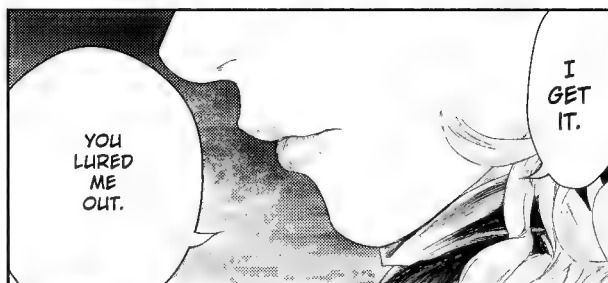
THEY'RE
BEHIND
US, AS
WELL!



CLEAR
THE ROAD!
WE'RE
IN A
HURRY!

WH-
WHO
ARE
ALL OF
YOU?!





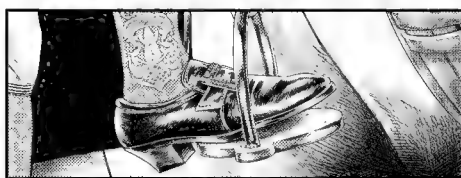
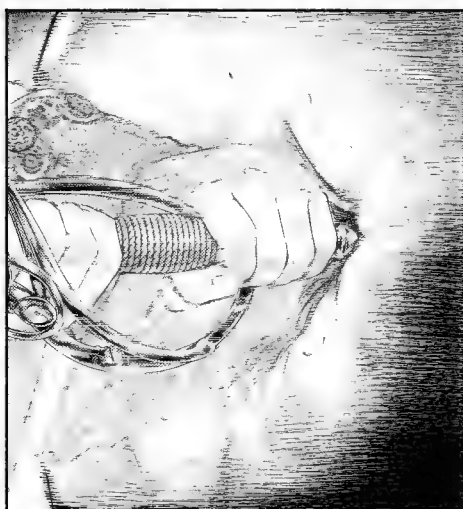


YOUNG
MISS...YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
CLOSED OFF ON
A BRIDGE, WITH A
LINE OF SPEARS
BOTH BEFORE
AND BEHIND YOU,
AND NOWHERE
TO GO.



...THIS IS A
NECESSITY, AS
IT ALLOWS US
TO SKEWER YOU
AT A DISTANCE
WITHOUT HAVING
TO SULLY EVEN
A FINGER
BY TOUCHING
YOU!

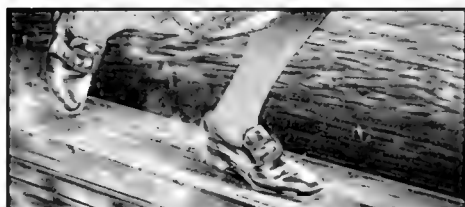
WITH
ONE AS
IMPURE
AND
TAINTED
AS
YOU...



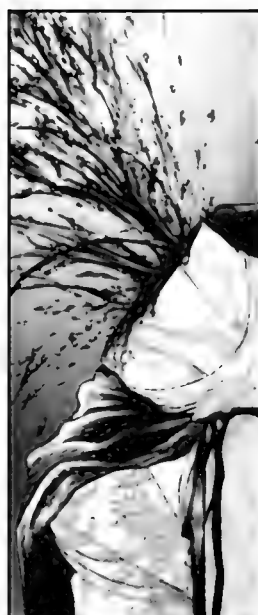
WHAT IS
IT WITH YOU
GEEZERS
AND YOUR
LONG-ASS
SPEECHES?



n°50 Brilliant Judith

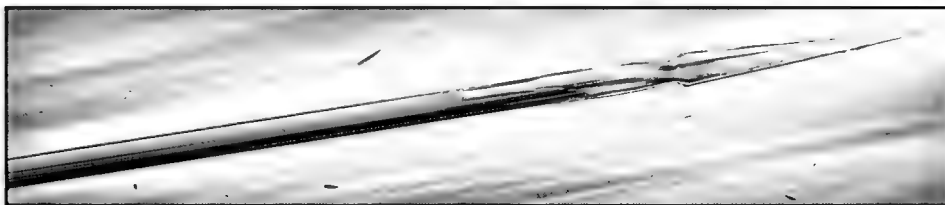


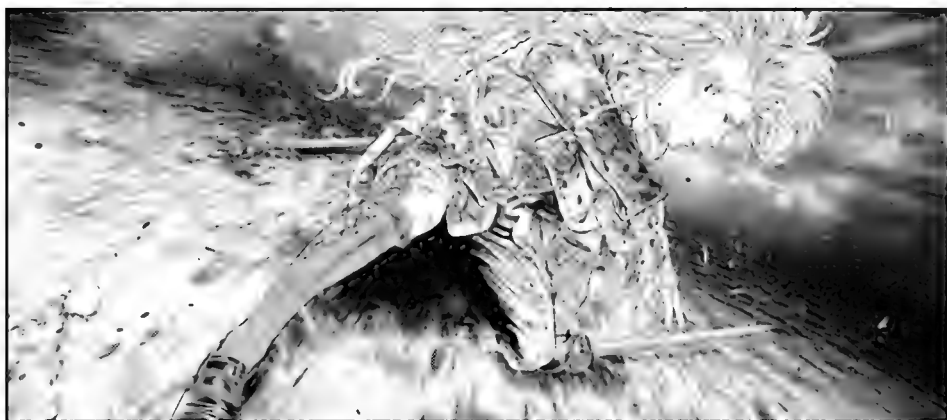
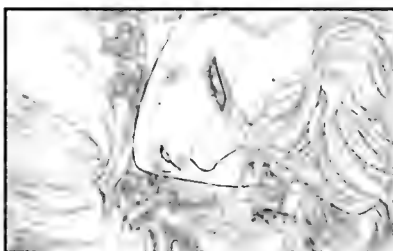
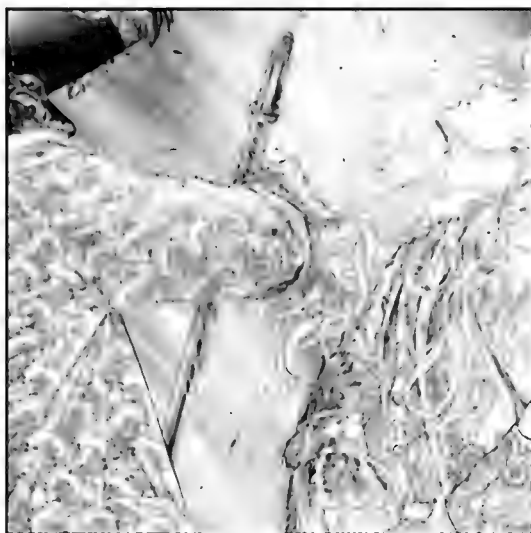


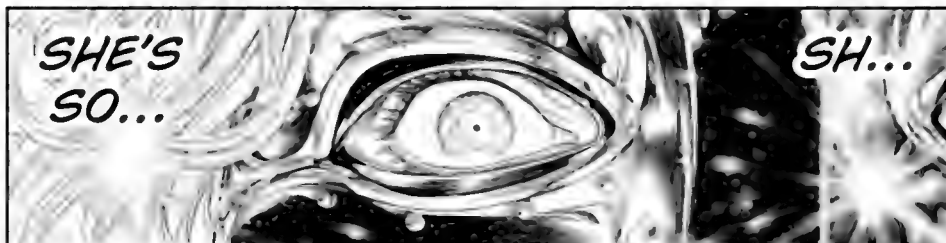
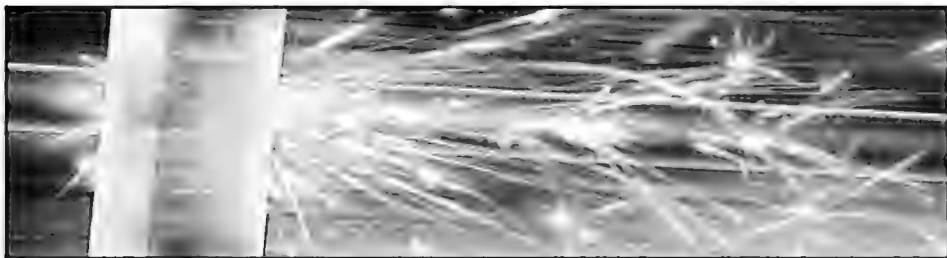
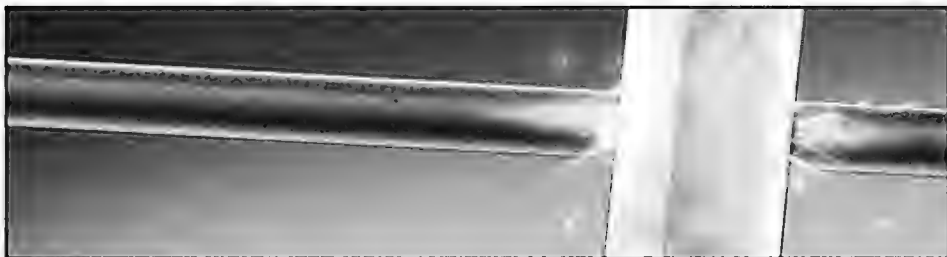




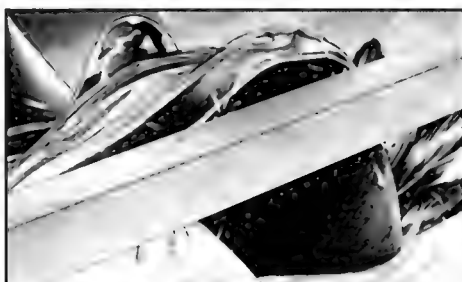
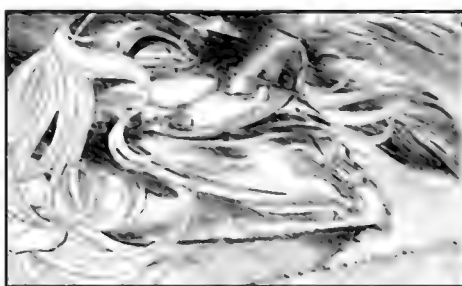


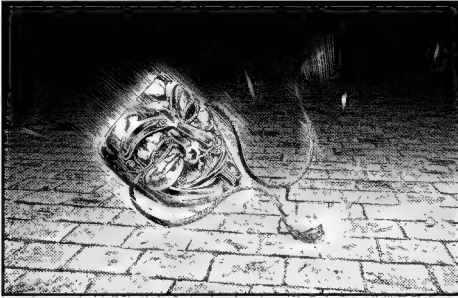


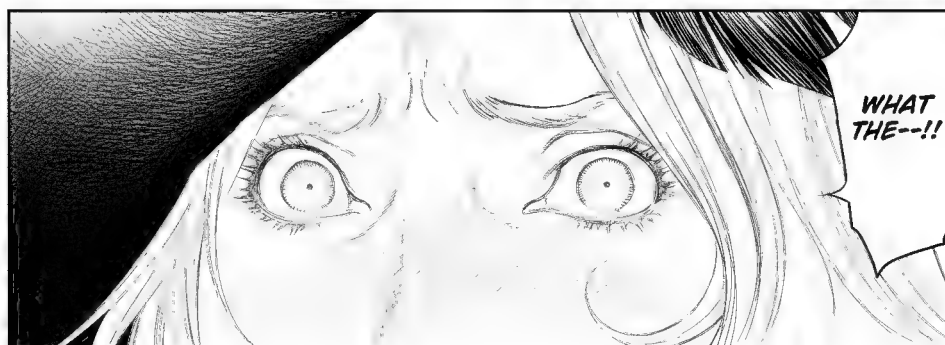














IT'S
QUITE
APPALL-
ING.

REALLY,
THOUGH, THE
NERVE OF A
GROUP OF
ADULT MEN
GANGING UP
LIKE THAT ON
A GIRL.



BREAK...

**...AND
DISPERSE!**



ARE
YOU NOT
INJURED,
MARIE?

IN ANY
CASE, YOU
WERE
RELENTLESS
YOURSELF.

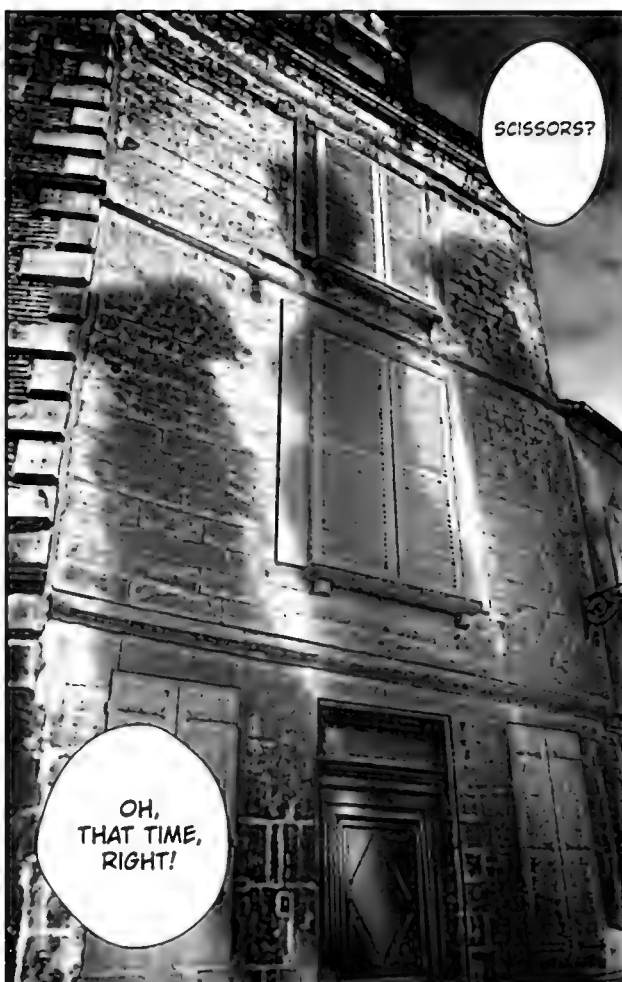


PERHAPS
THIS WILL
HELP YOU
REMEMBER
ME?



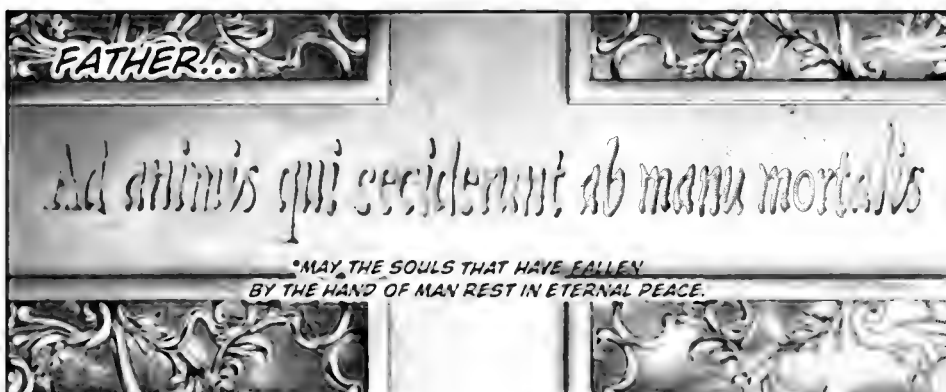


n°51 Prayer of Life





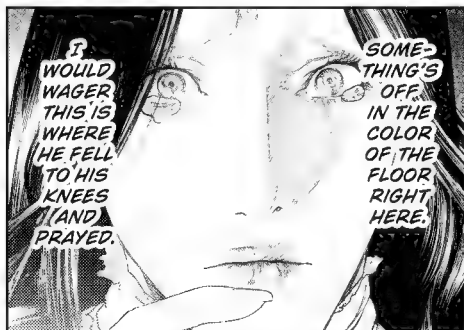
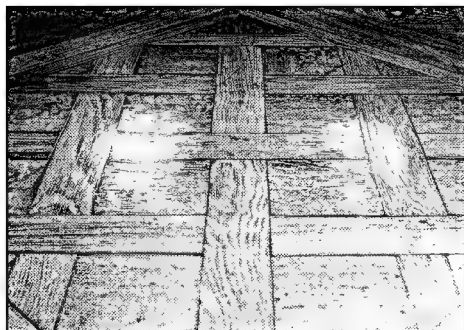






EACH OF
THESE
CROSSES
MARKS
ONE
OF THE
COUNT-
LESS
SOULS
THAT MY
FATHER
CARRIED
OUT HIS
WORK
UPON.

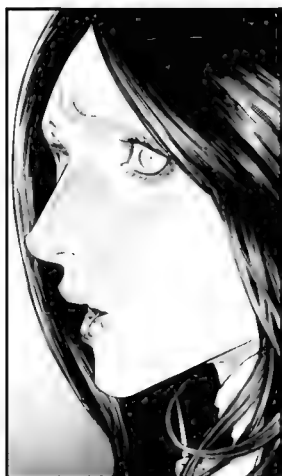
THIS
IS MY
FATHER'S
CHAPEL
OF
ATONEMENT.



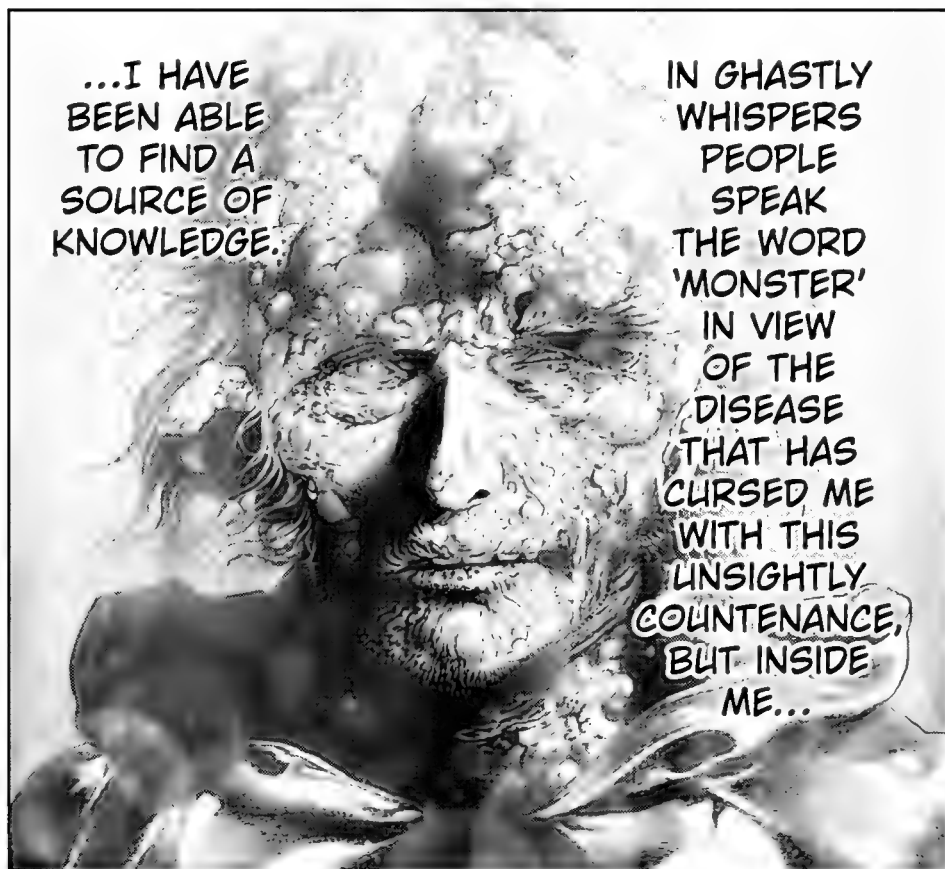


...HOLD
THE
SAME
WEAK
HEART,
IN
SECRET,
AS I
DO?!

DID
YOU,
FATHER...







...I HAVE
BEEN ABLE
TO FIND A
SOURCE OF
KNOWLEDGE.

IN GHASTLY
WHISPERS
PEOPLE
SPEAK
THE WORD
'MONSTER'
IN VIEW
OF THE
DISEASE
THAT HAS
CURSED ME
WITH THIS
UNSIGHTLY
COUNTEenance,
BUT INSIDE
ME...

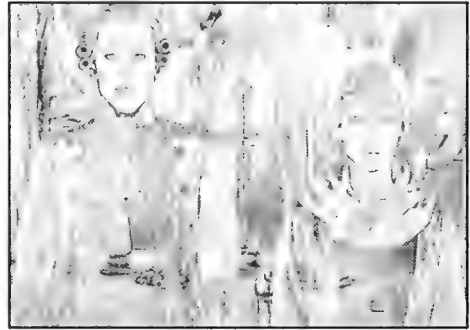
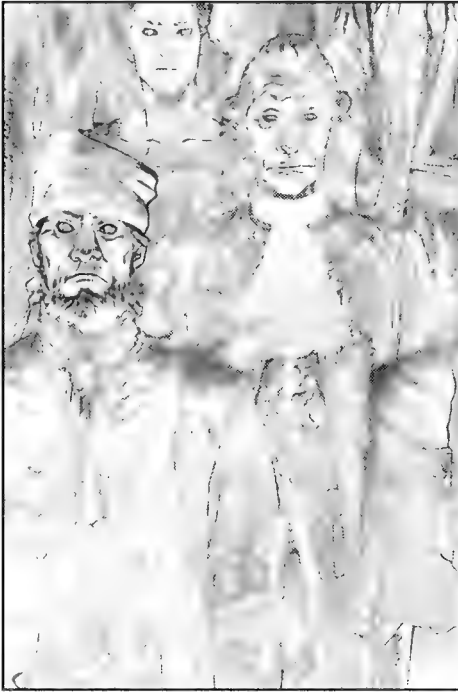


DISCARD
YOUR
BOOKS,
CHARLES.

FOR
MY DUTY
HERE IS
COMPLETE.



FATHER
GRISEL!

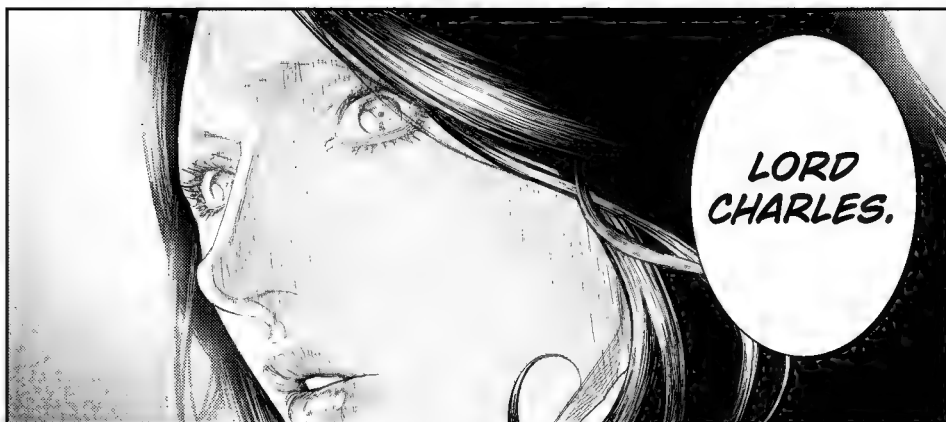




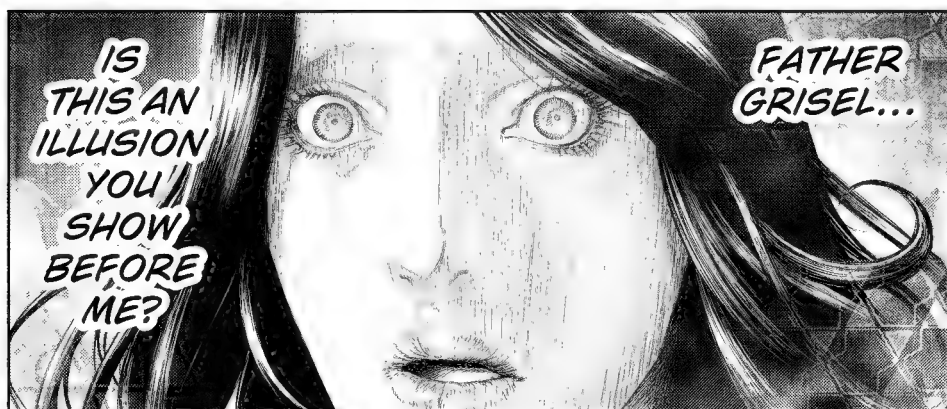
SEE
THROUGH
TO THE
TRUTHS
OF ALL
PEOPLE,
FOR NOW
IS THE
TIME
TO USE
WHAT
YOU HAVE
LEARNED
AND
GROW.

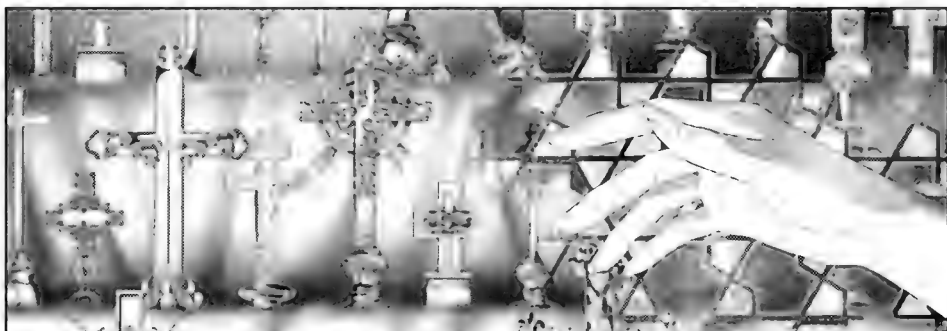
TAKE THE
KNOWLEDGE
I HAVE
BESTOWED
UPON YOU,
AND THE
BODY THE
LORD GOD
GIFTED
TO YOU,
AND
ENTWINE
YOURSELF
WITH
OTHERS,
CHARLES.













FRANCE'S
PEERLESS
EXECUTIONER,
THE
MONSIEUR
DE
PARIS...

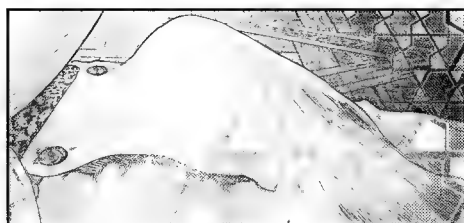
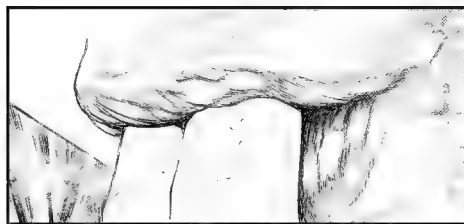
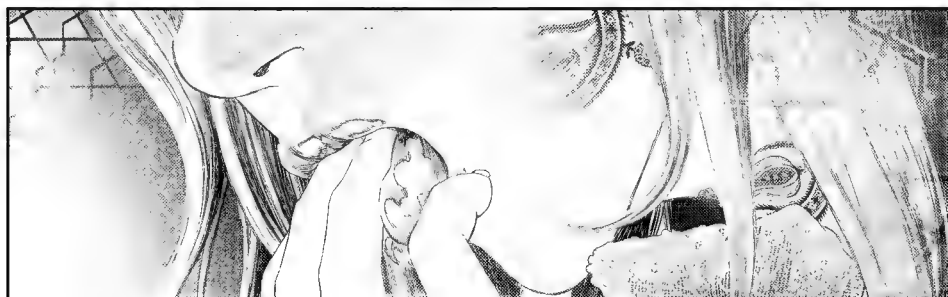


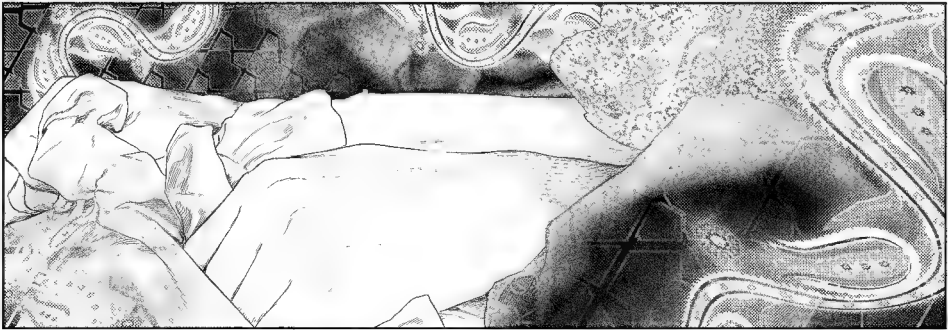
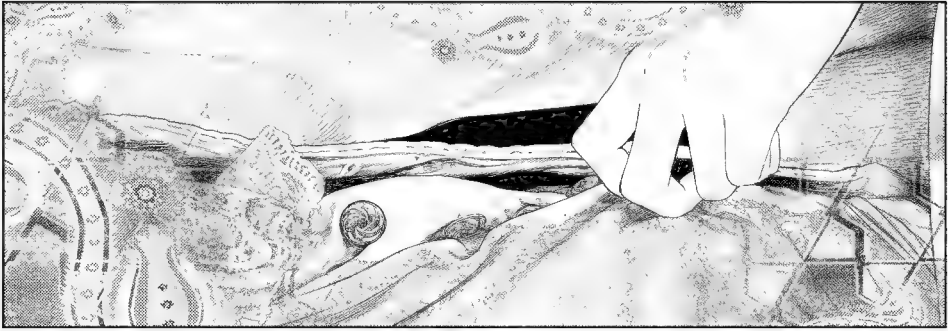
...LORD
CHARLES-
HENRI
SANSON.

SHOW
MERCY
UNTO
ME...

n°52 A Baptism Drenched in Mercy





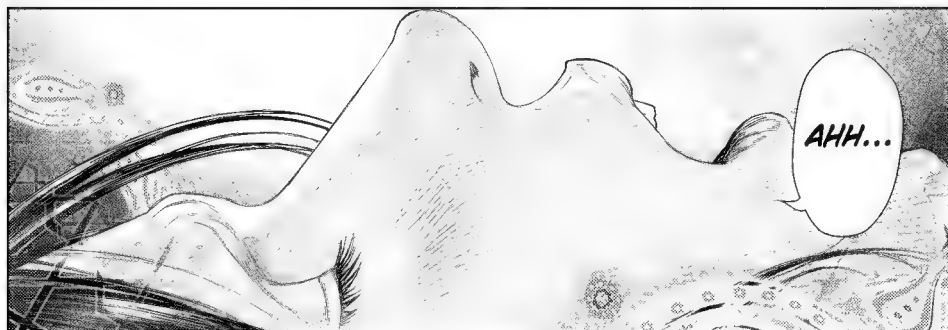
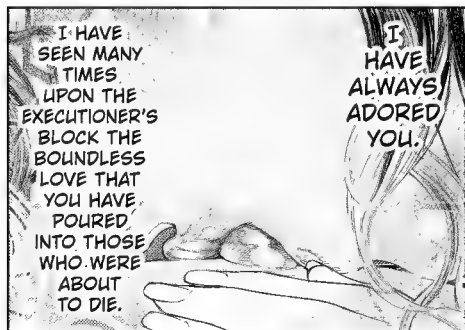
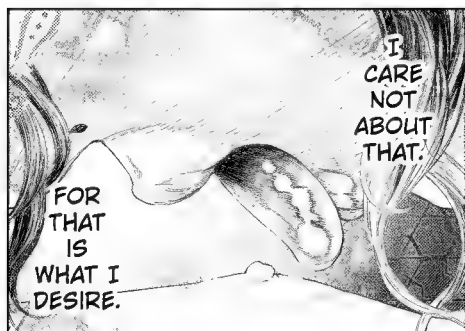




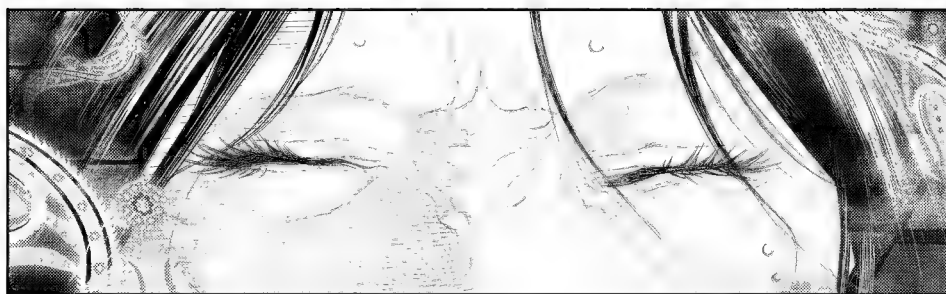
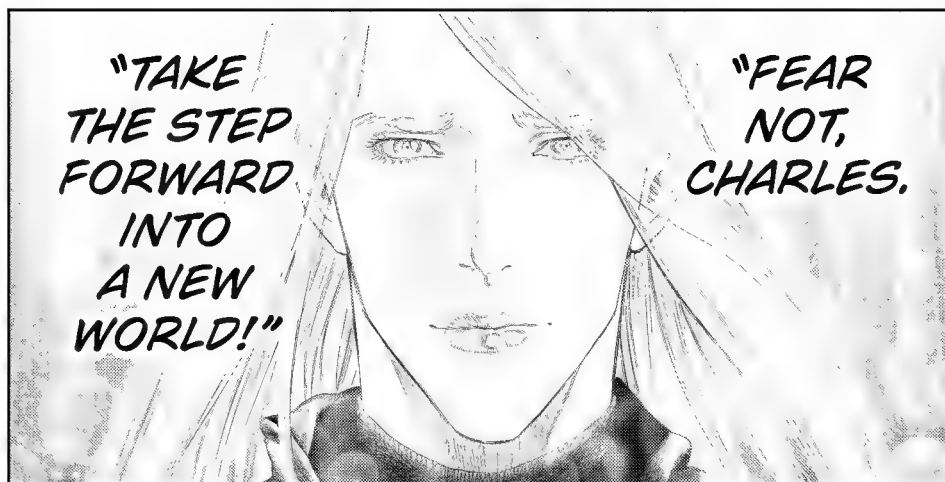
IS
THIS A
TRIAL
OF
SOME
SORT
THAT
YOU'RE
PUTTING
ME
THROUGH?

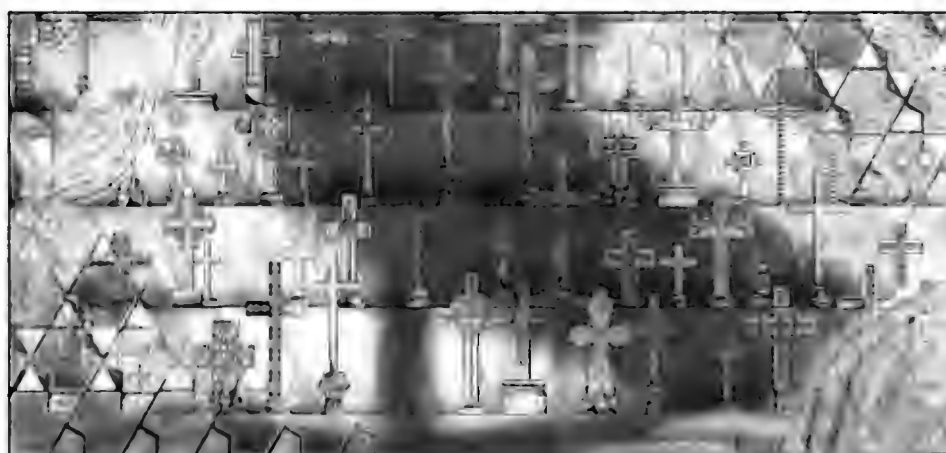
FATHER
GRISEL...

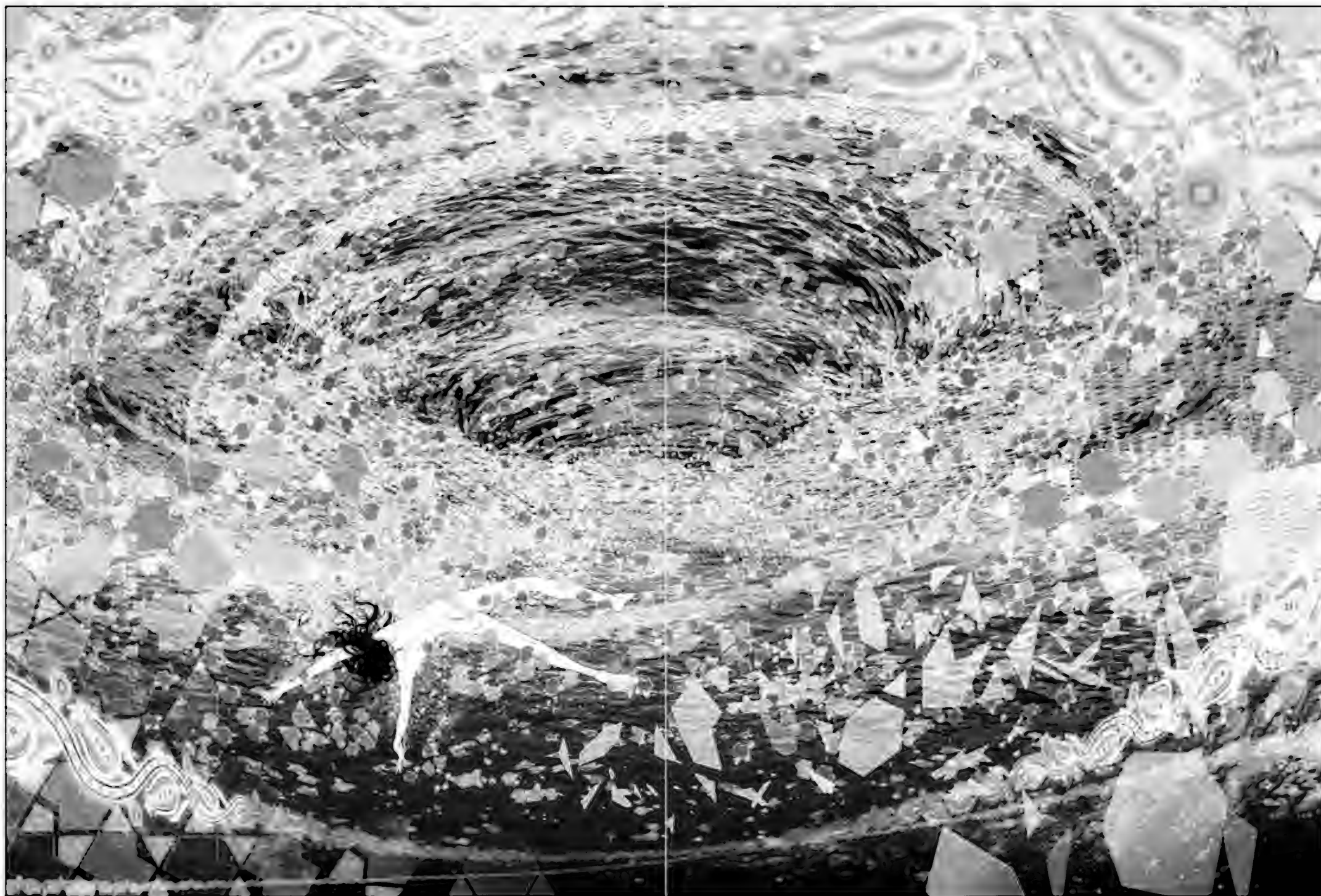


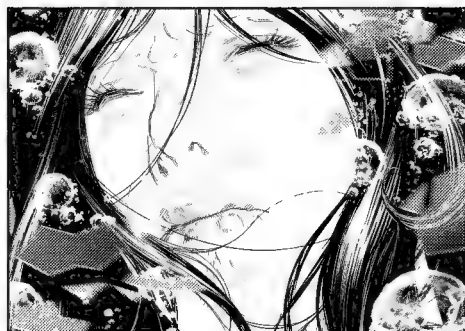


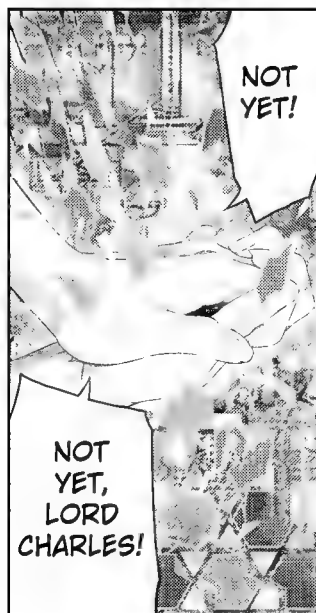
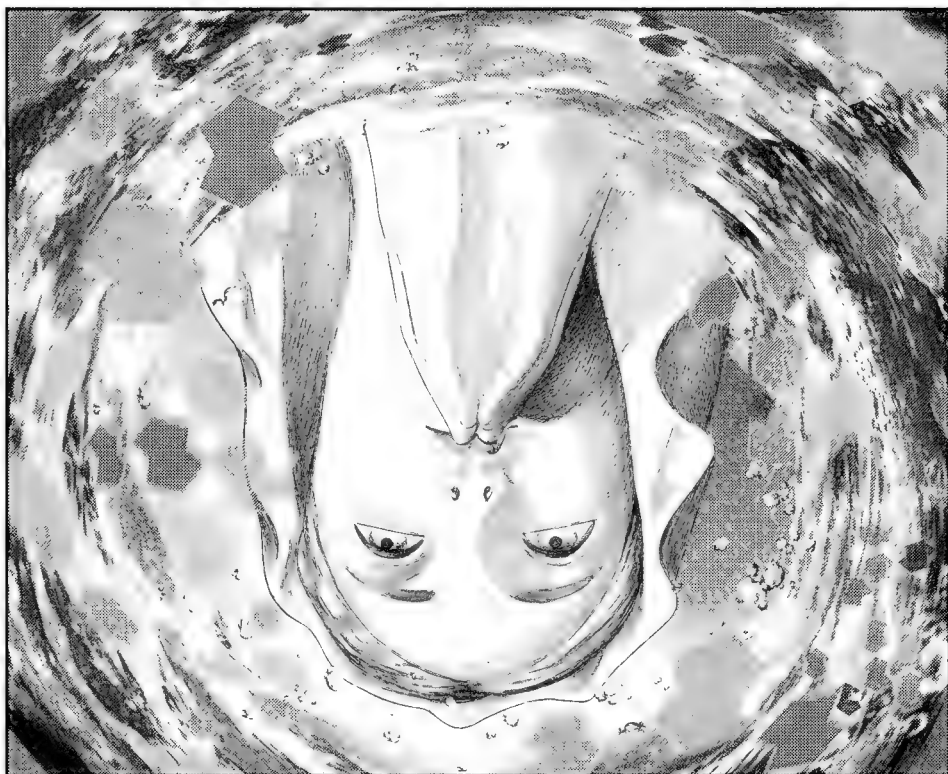






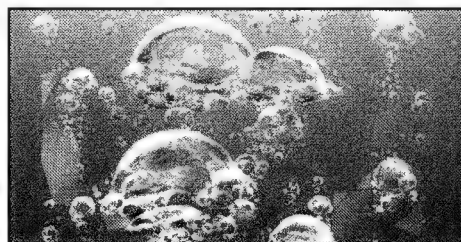
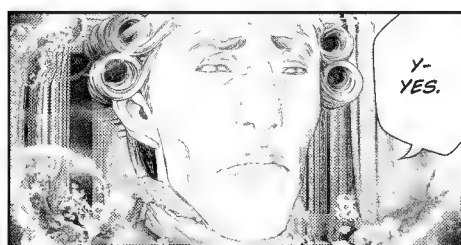
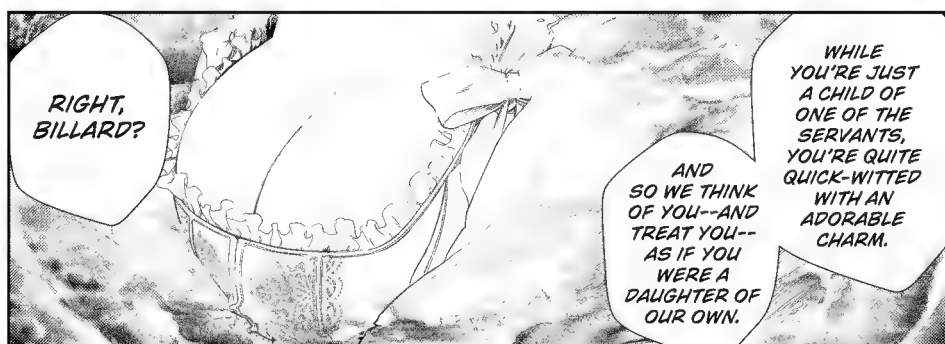










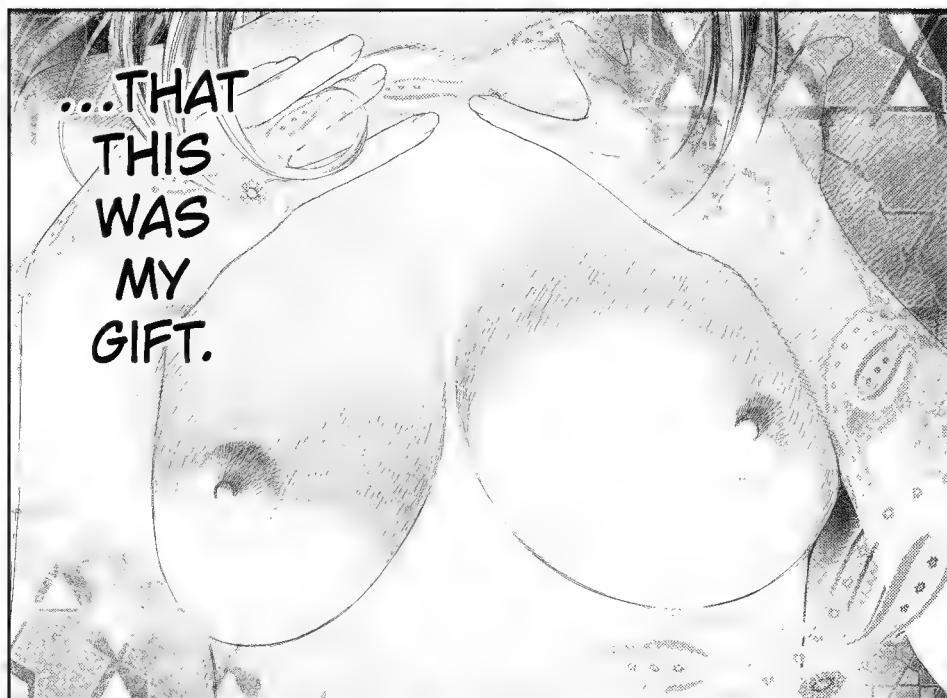
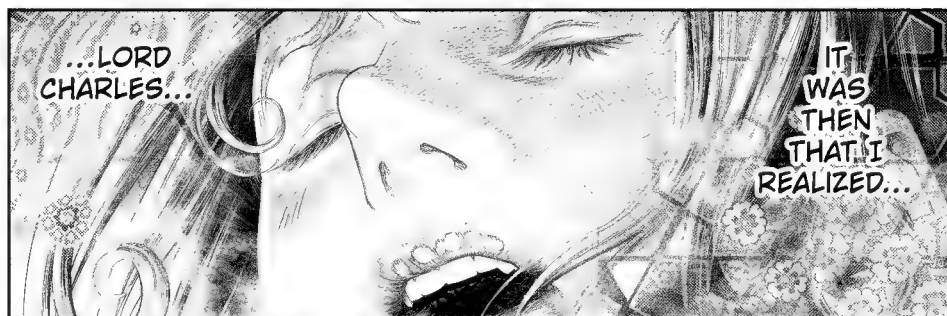






"IN THIS ERA, BARBERS WERE ALSO PRIVATE PHYSICIANS."





n°53 The Secret Ritual

GOD HAD
IMPARTED
UPON ME
THE TALENT
OF
PLEASURING
MEN.





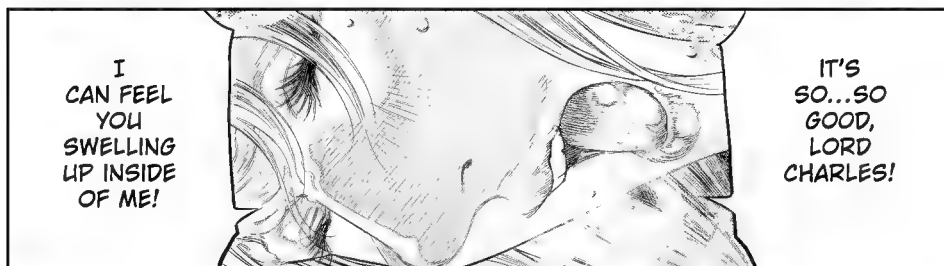
!!!



AHH...AHH!
THIS IS PURE
BLISS!
LORD
CHARLES
AND I ARE
ENTWINED,
CONNECTED
AS ONE!

NOW,
FORGET
EVERY-
THING...

...AND
I SHALL
LEAD
YOU TO
REALMS
BEYOND
CLIMAX!

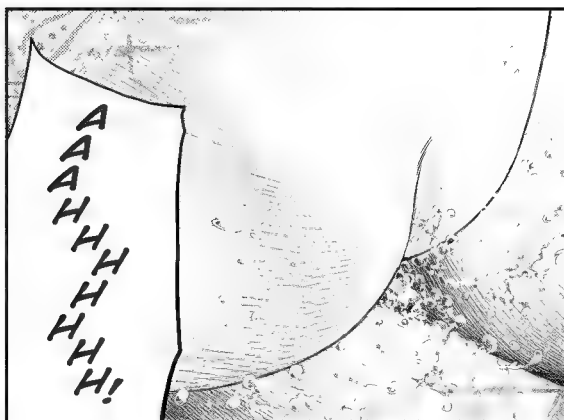


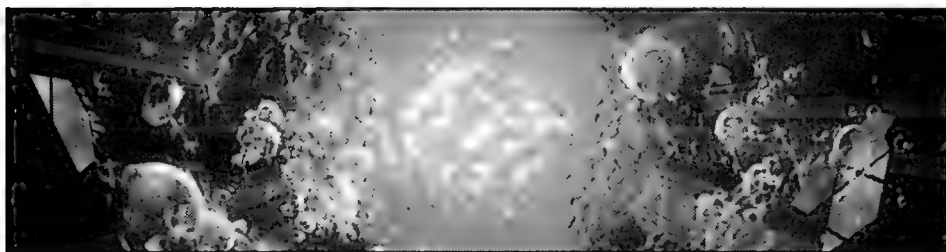
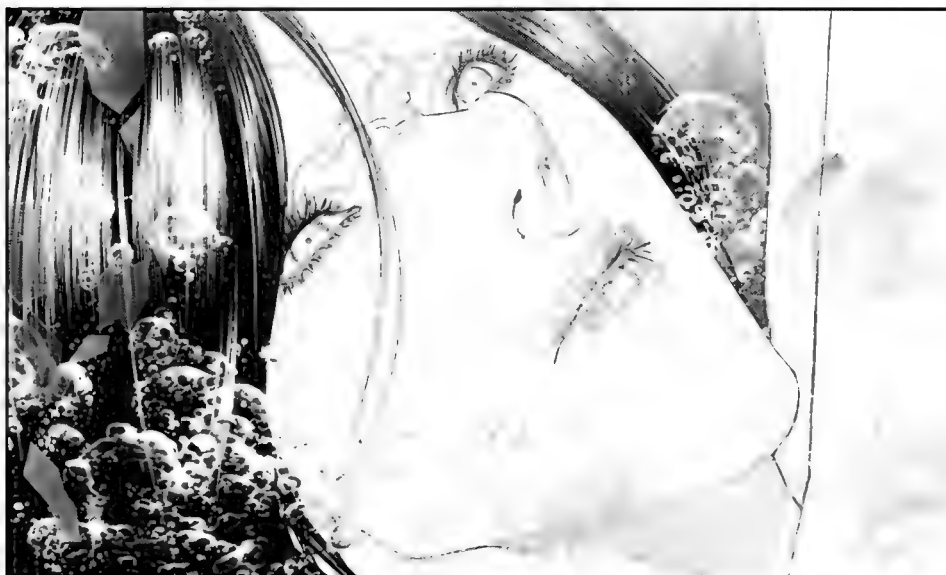
I
CAN FEEL
YOU
SWELLING
UP INSIDE
OF ME!

IT'S
SO...SO
GOOD,
LORD
CHARLES!



A
A
H
H
H
H
H
H!



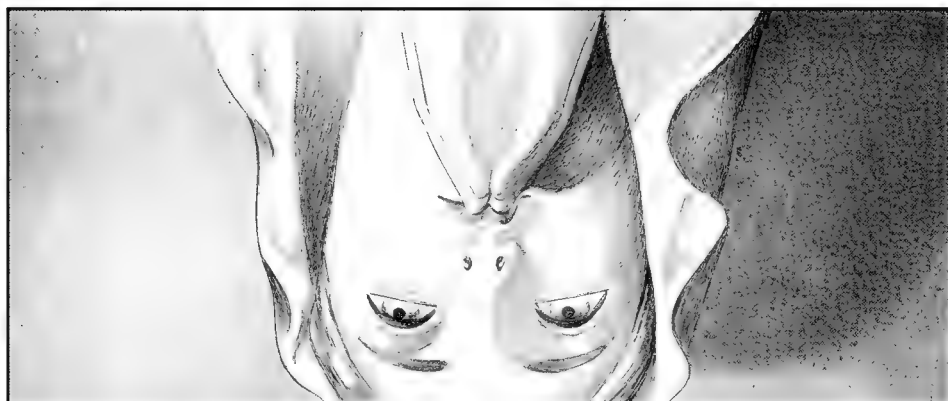




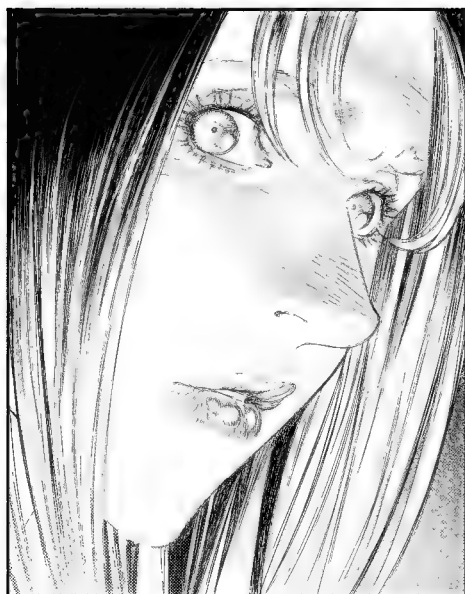
**EVERY-
THING
I SEE
SEEMS
TO
SHINE
WITH
BRILLIANT
INCANDESC-
CENCE!**

**INDESCRIB-
ABLE
PLEASURE!**













ONE
COULD
GET
ADDICTED
TO THIS
PLEASURE.

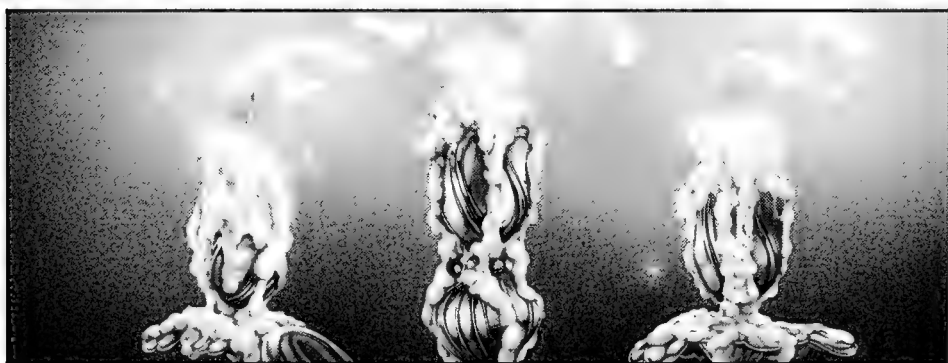
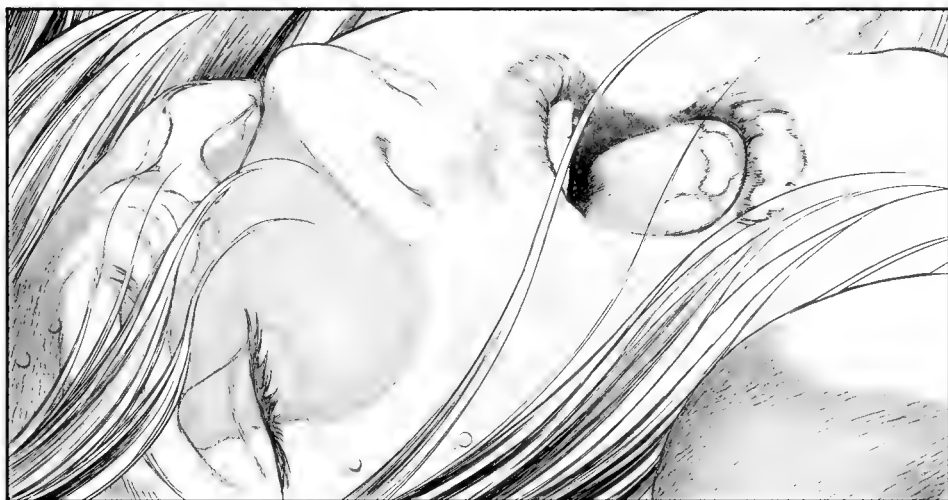
MA
PETITE
CHÉRIE...

...I
WANT TO
SLEEP
WITH YOU
AGAIN.



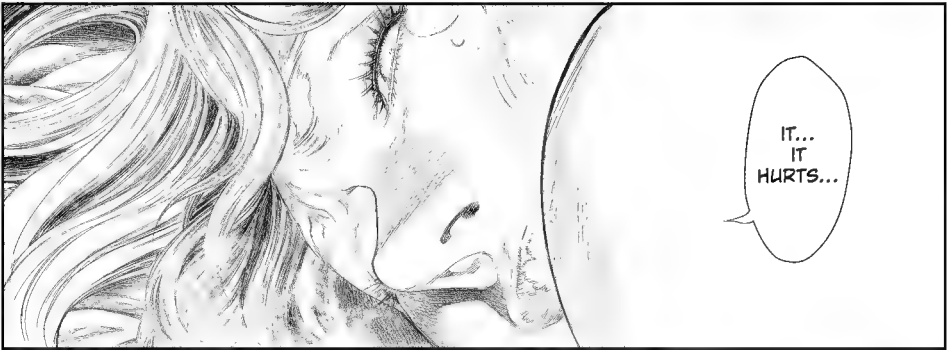
Décapitation de la Statue

There are those that say the warm embrace of others heals all. There are those that say with love, there can be forgiveness. I will not be fooled. For I have learned that all great artists, all of them, who have moved people's hearts and souls have crawled up from the depths of suffering and loneliness. While I am not an artist, I always like to be in a state of preparation to dive headlong into those emotions.



n°54 Capital of the Seven-Colored Dream



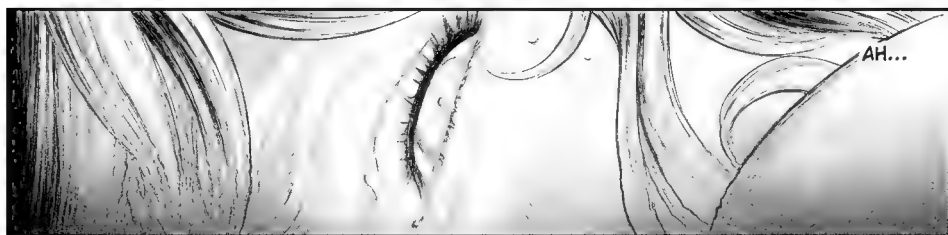




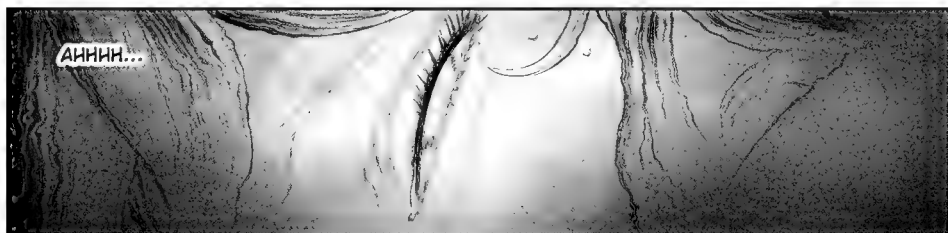


IS
THIS
REALLY...

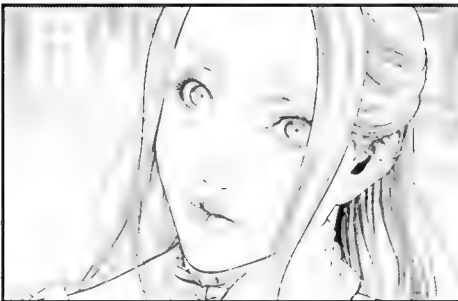
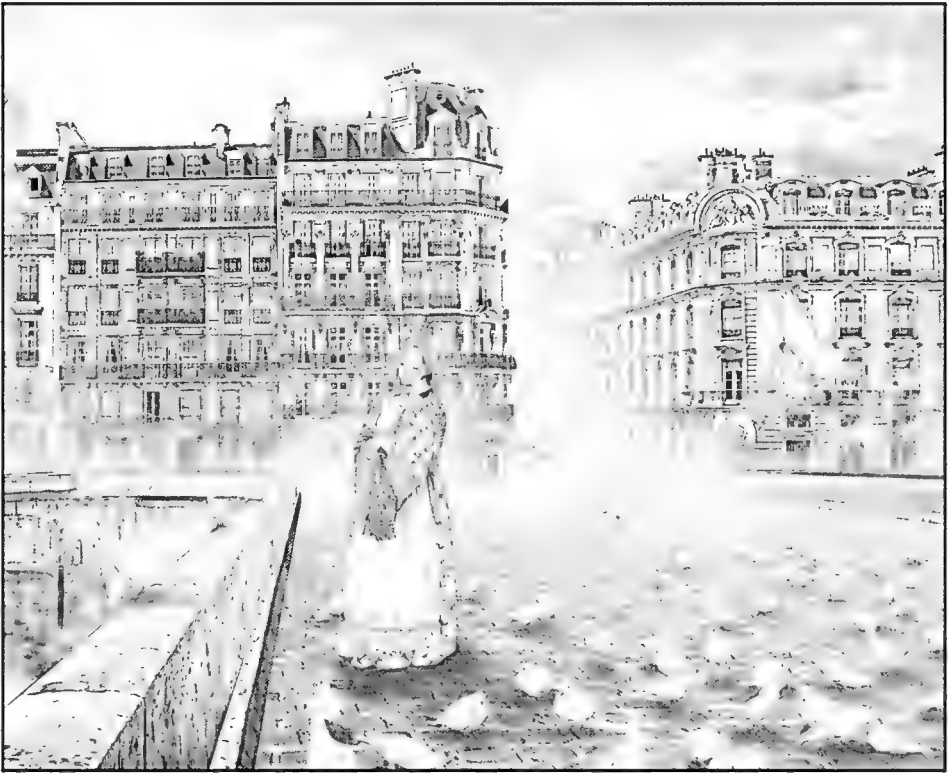
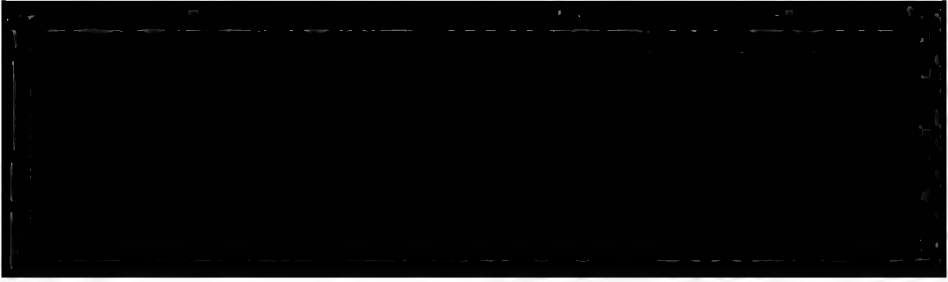
...THAT
LORD
CHARLES?!

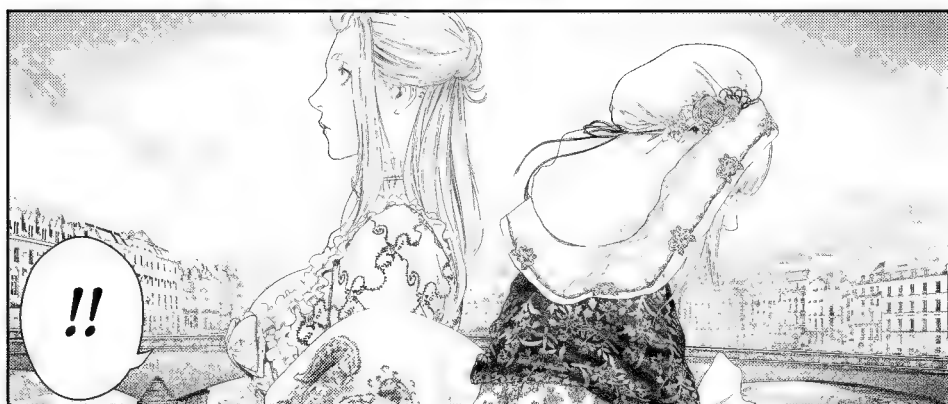
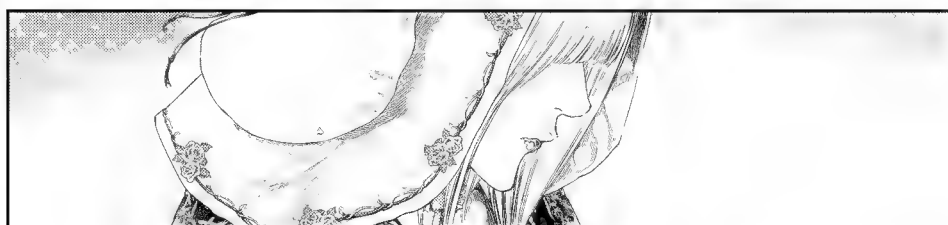
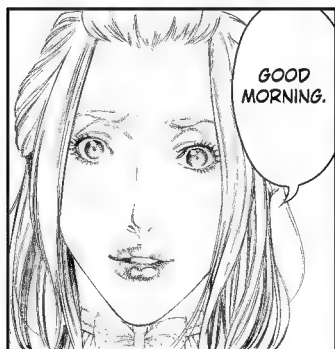


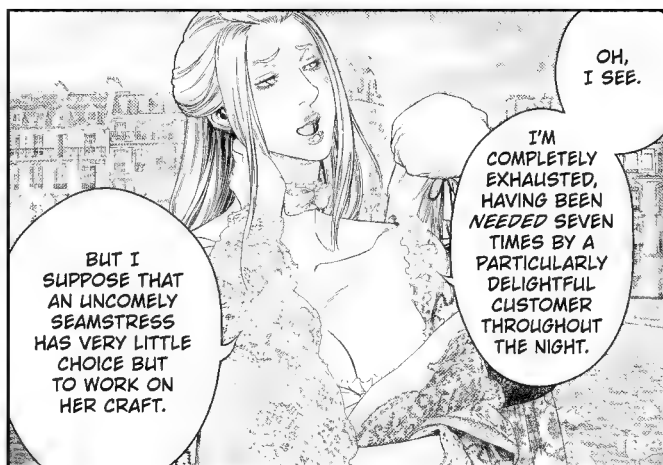
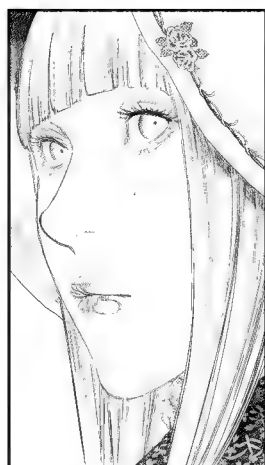
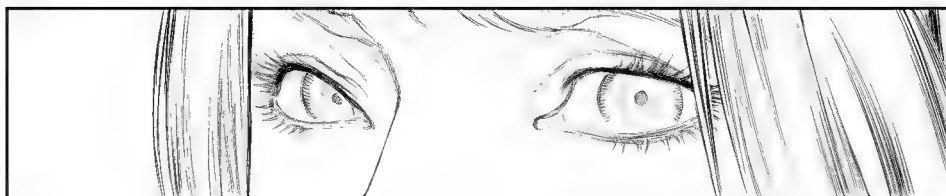
AH...

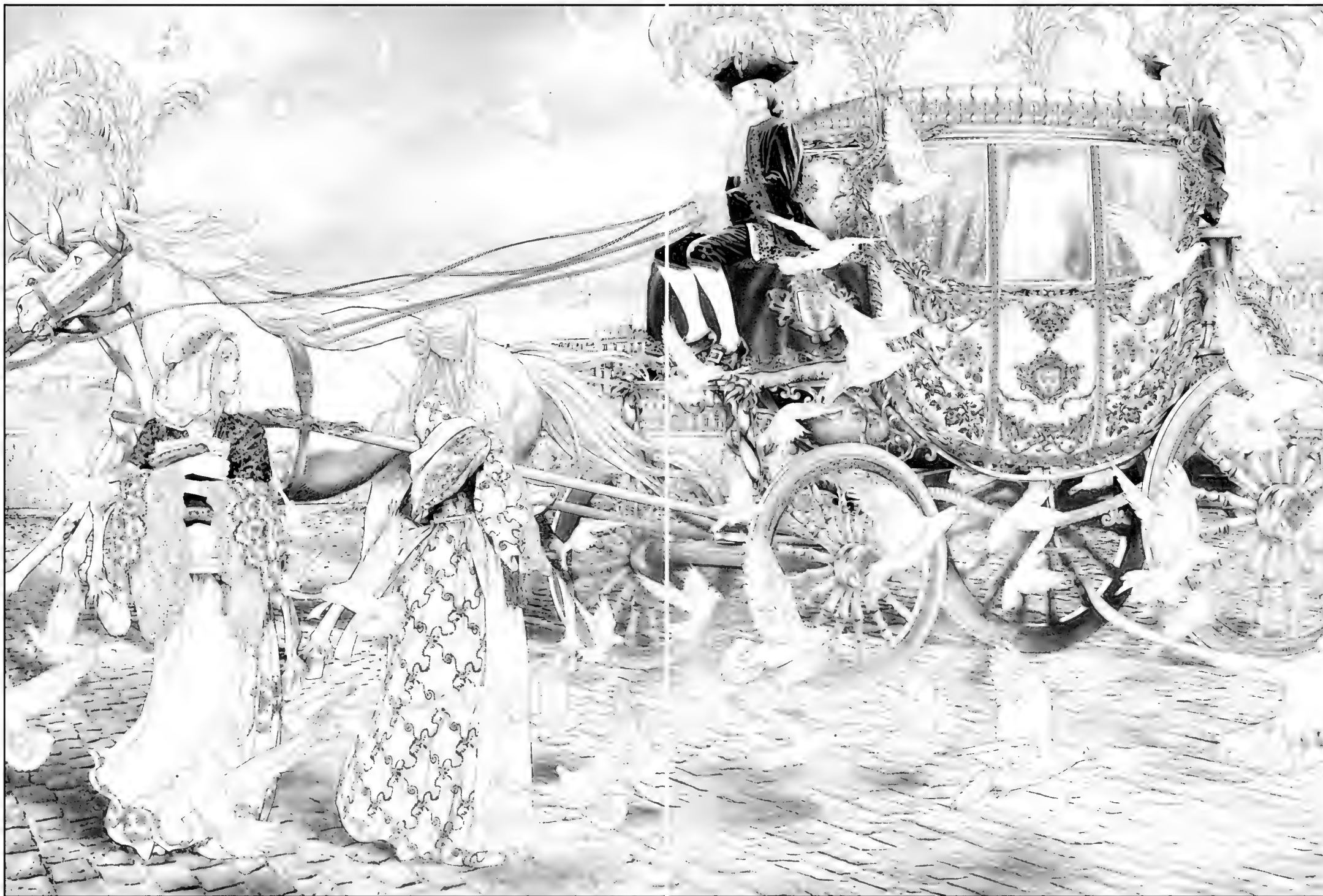


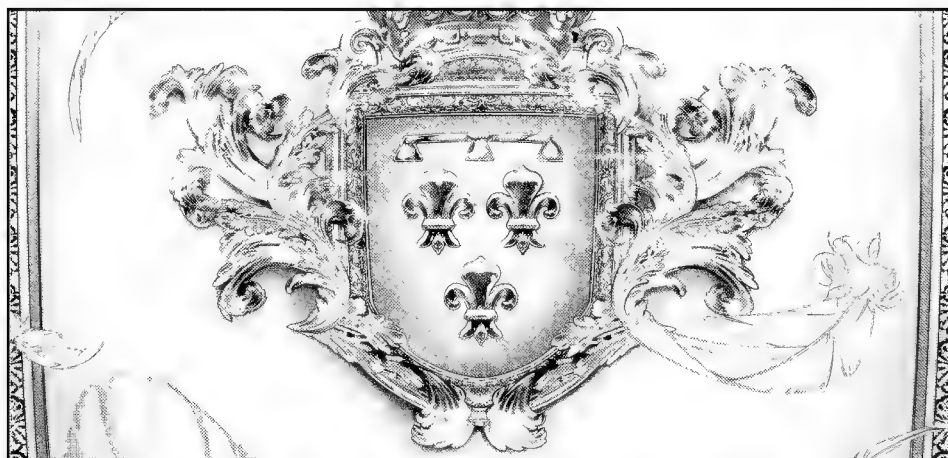
АННН...

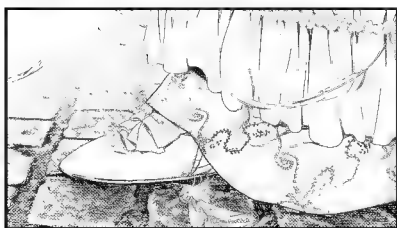
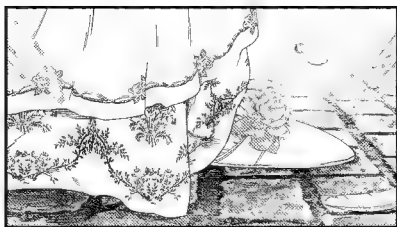
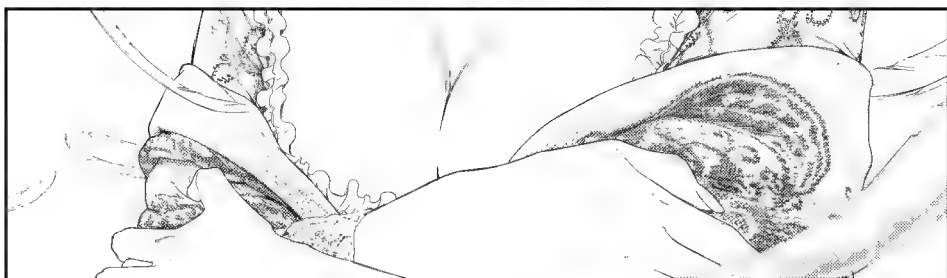




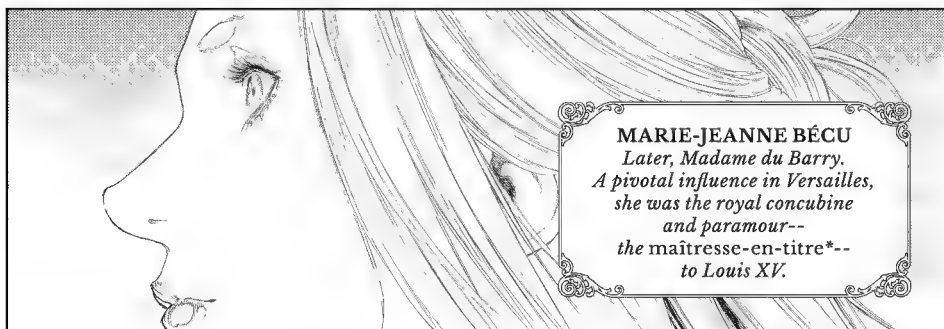






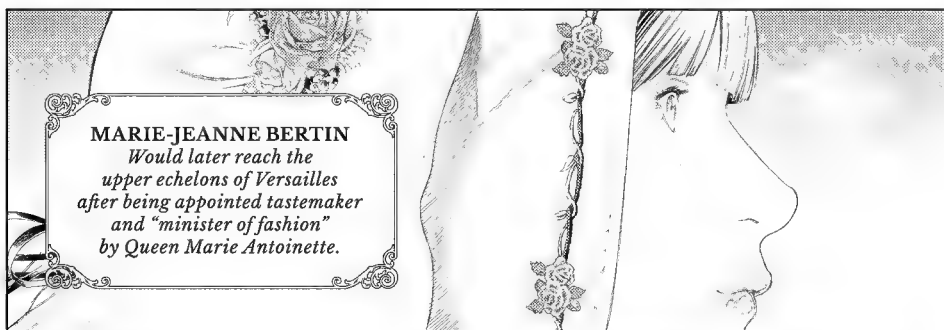




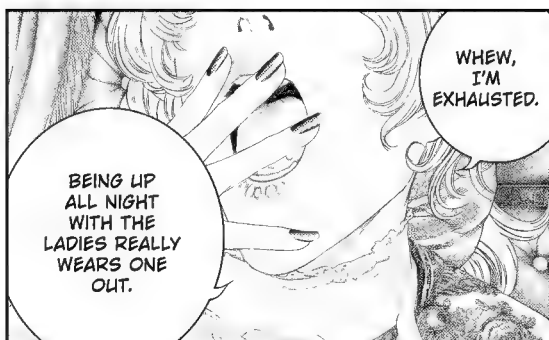


MARIE-JEANNE BÉCU
*Later, Madame du Barry.
A pivotal influence in Versailles,
she was the royal concubine
and paramour--
the maîtresse-en-titre*--
to Louis XV.*

**OFFICIAL MISTRESS OF THE KING*



MARIE-JEANNE BERTIN
*Would later reach the
upper echelons of Versailles
after being appointed tastemaker
and "minister of fashion"
by Queen Marie Antoinette.*



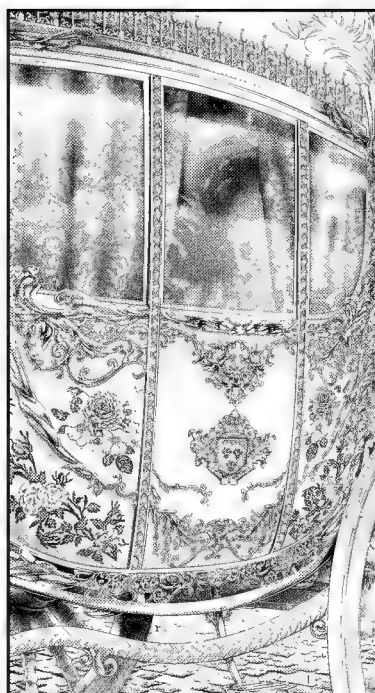
BEING UP
ALL NIGHT
WITH THE
LADIES REALLY
WEARS ONE
OUT.

WHEW,
I'M
EXHAUSTED.



UNQUESTIONABLY
MORE DESERVING
OF THE THRONE
THAN THE SOFT,
WEAK FAMILY
THAT PRESENTLY
OCCUPIES IT,
IF ONE MAY
SAY.

EXCELLENT,
YOUR GRACE.
YOU CERTAINLY
HAVE THE
BLOOD OF
HIS MAJESTY
THE KING
RUNNING
THROUGH YOUR
VEINS.

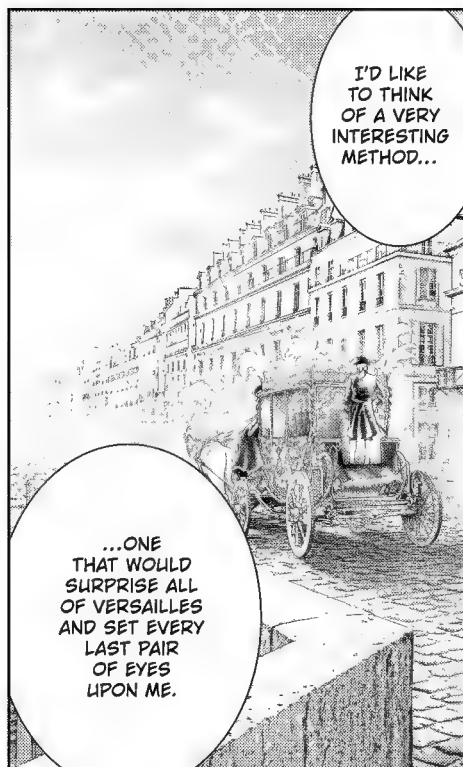




YOU
MAY.

I
AGREE
COMPLETELY.

LOUIS-PHILIPPE II
*Later, Duke of Orléans.
During the Revolution,
he sought to eliminate Louis XVI
and was deeply involved
in his execution.*



I'D LIKE
TO THINK
OF A VERY
INTERESTING
METHOD...

...ONE
THAT WOULD
SURPRISE ALL
OF VERSAILLES
AND SET EVERY
LAST PAIR
OF EYES
UPON ME.



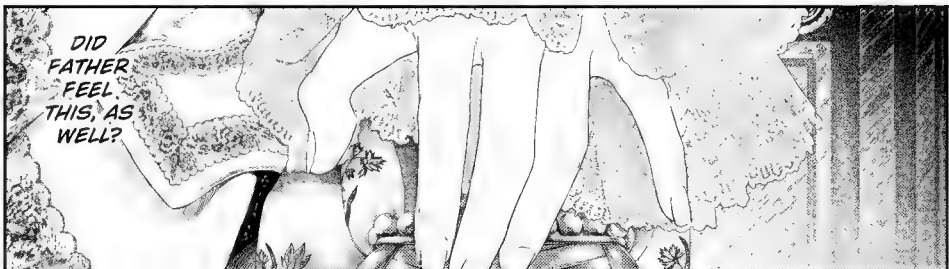
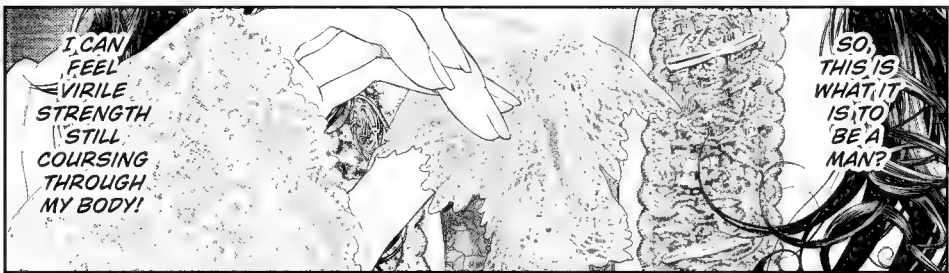
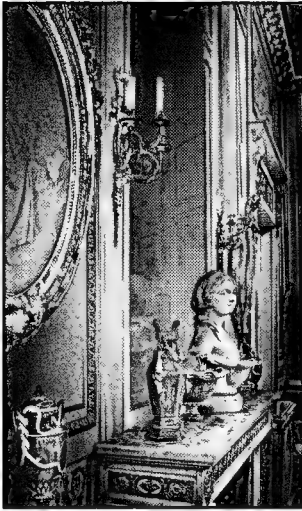
OH, BY
THE WAY,
HAS LA TOUR
BEEN
ARRESTED
YET?

'T WAS
SAID THAT
HE BECAME
SYMPATHETIC
TO THE
FACTION THAT
OPPOSES THE
KING AND
MADE AN
APPEAL
AGAINST HIS
MAJESTY'S
ORDER TO
EXECUTE
LORD
GRIFFIN.



WERE I TO
CAPTURE HIM,
SOULT, THE
MAGISTRATE,
WOULD BE
MINE TO
COMMAND.

AND TO
ACCOMMODATE
MY FANCY,
HE'D CERTAINLY
ALLOW ME
TO CHOOSE
THE METHOD OF
EXECUTION.



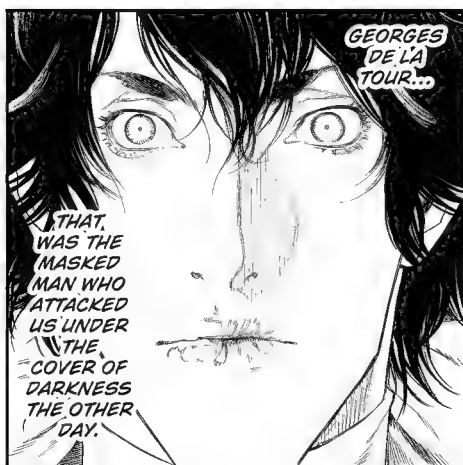




n°55 For the Love of the
“Dark” Family

**WHAT
IS IT,
BROTHER?**









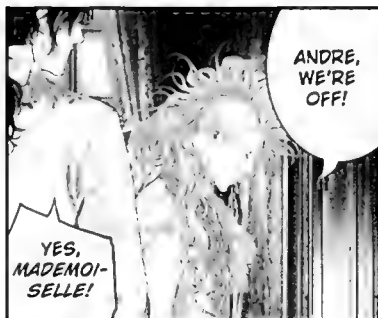
SAVES
ME ALL
THE
TROUBLE
OF
LOOKING
FOR HIM.
THIS TIME,
THERE
WILL
BE NO
GETTING
AWAY!!

LUCKY
ME.



LOOKS
LIKE
FORTUNE
KNOCKS
UPON
YOUR
DOOR,
LADY
MARIE!

FOR THE
RUFFIAN
WHO
ASSAULTED
YOU MOST
FOULLY
IN THE
DARK
SHALL
FORMALLY
GET HIS
COMEP-
PANCE.



ANDRE,
WE'RE
OFF!

YES,
MADAMOI-
SELLE!

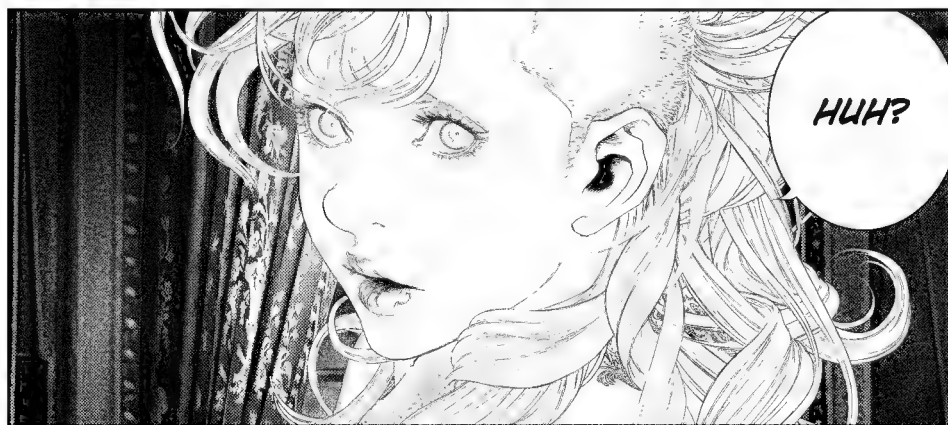


WAIT...



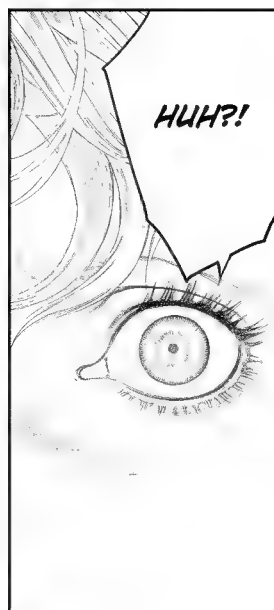
UNDER-
STOOD,
BROTHER.
I'LL MAKE
THE
NECESSARY
PREPARATIONS
AT ONCE.

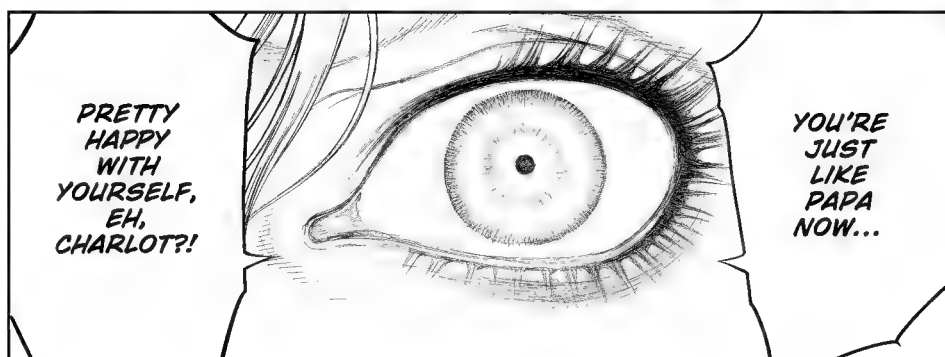
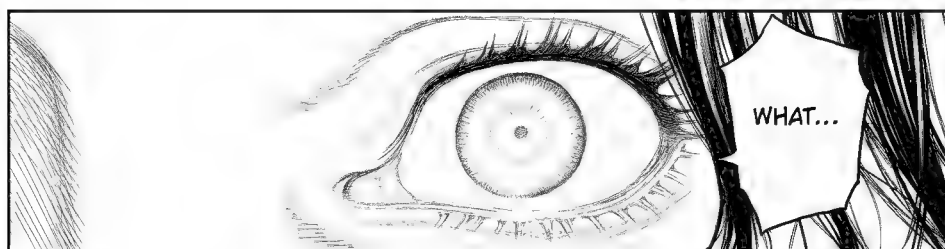
I INTEND
TO GIVE SPECIAL
DEDICATION TO
CUTTING APART
ANY MAN THAT
ASSOCIATED WITH
GRIFFIN.



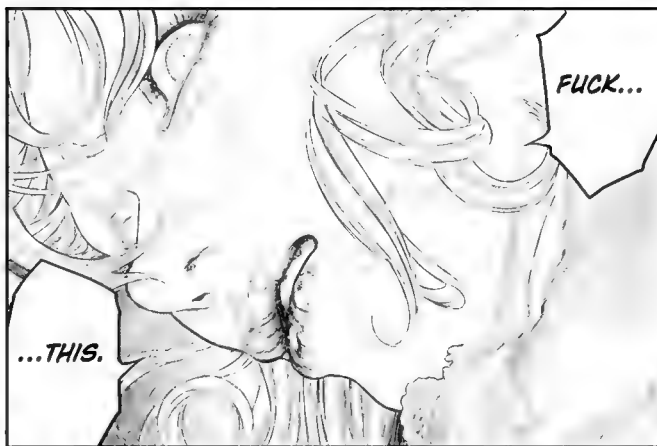
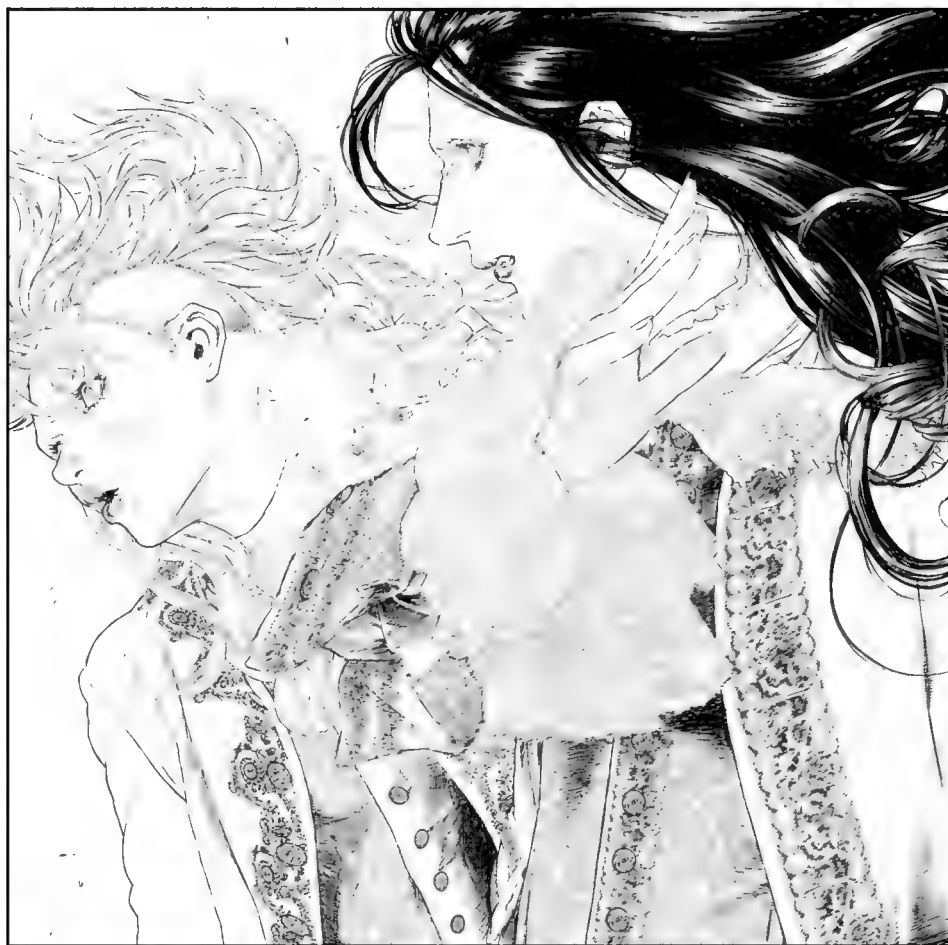


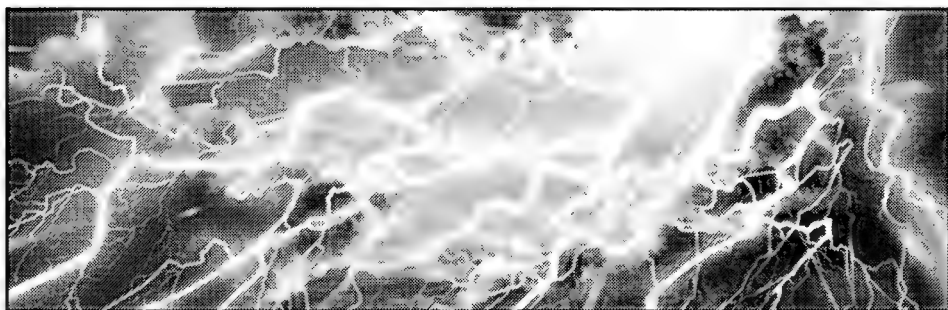








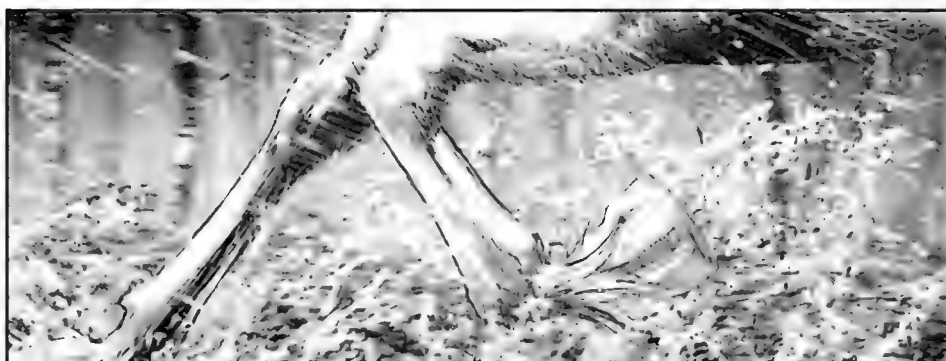














MY DESIRE
TO RID THIS
WORLD OF
EXECUTIONS
STILL
BURNS
AS HOT
AS EVER
DEEP
WITHIN MY
HEART!

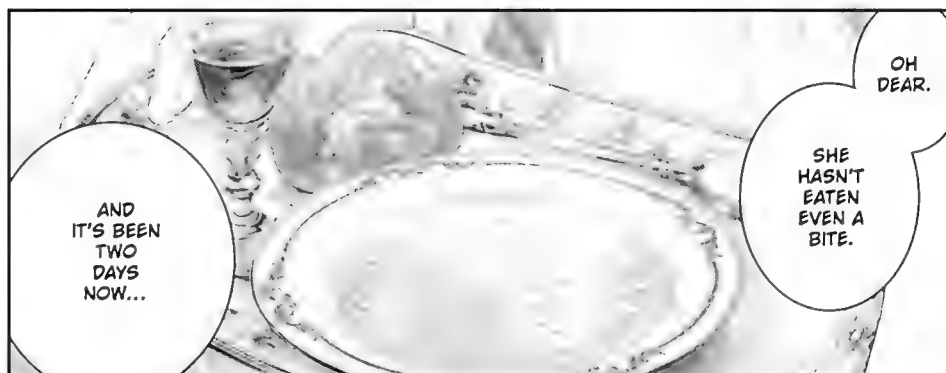
NOTHING
ABOUT
ME HAS
CHANGED
AT ALL.



Y
A
H
H!
H!

I HAVE
DECIDED
THAT ONE
DAY I WILL
APPEAL
DIRECTLY
TO HIS
MAJESTY IN
VERSAILLES.

AND
FOR THAT
REASON,
UNTIL
THAT TIME,
I MUST
EXECUTE THE
DUTIES OF
THE SANSONS
UNERRINGLY,
AND TO
PERFECTION!



AND
IT'S BEEN
TWO
DAYS
NOW...

OH
DEAR.

SHE
HASN'T
EATEN
EVEN A
BITE.



IT
BEGGARS
BELIEF THAT
THIS IS THE
SAME MARIE
THAT STOOD
UP TO
AND DEFIED
MADAME
MARTHE.

LADY
MARIE HAS
BEEN ACTING
QUITE UNLIKE
HERSELF,
HASN'T
SHE?

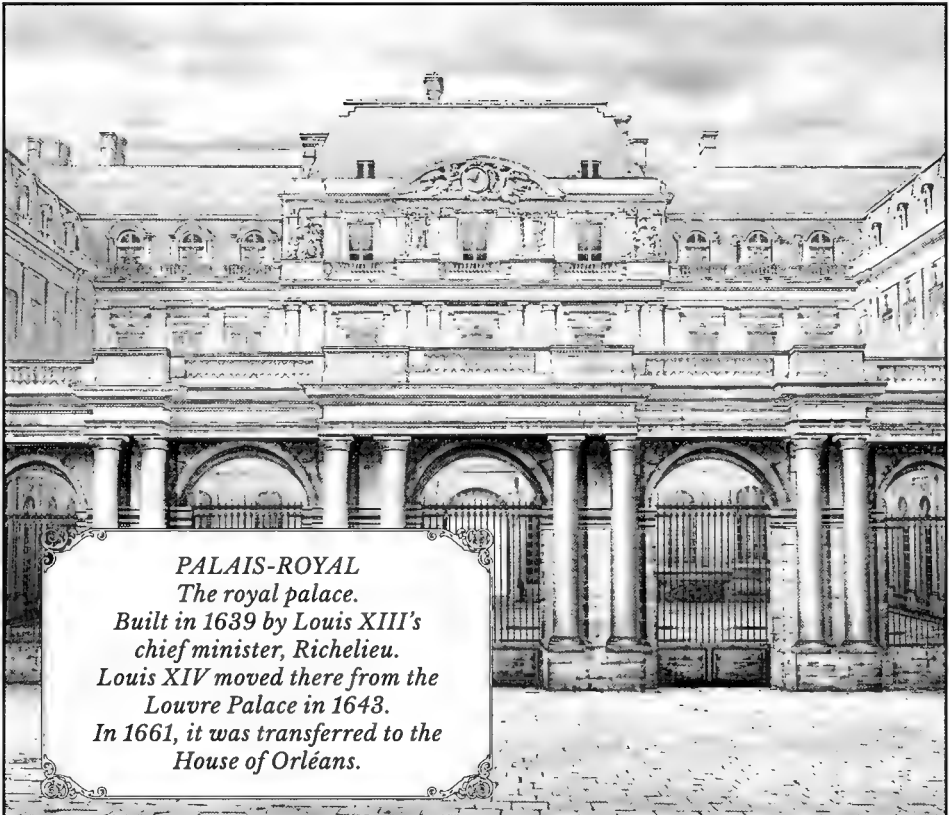
SHE'S
SITTING
THERE,
CHAINED,
QUIET AS A
CHURCHMOUSE.

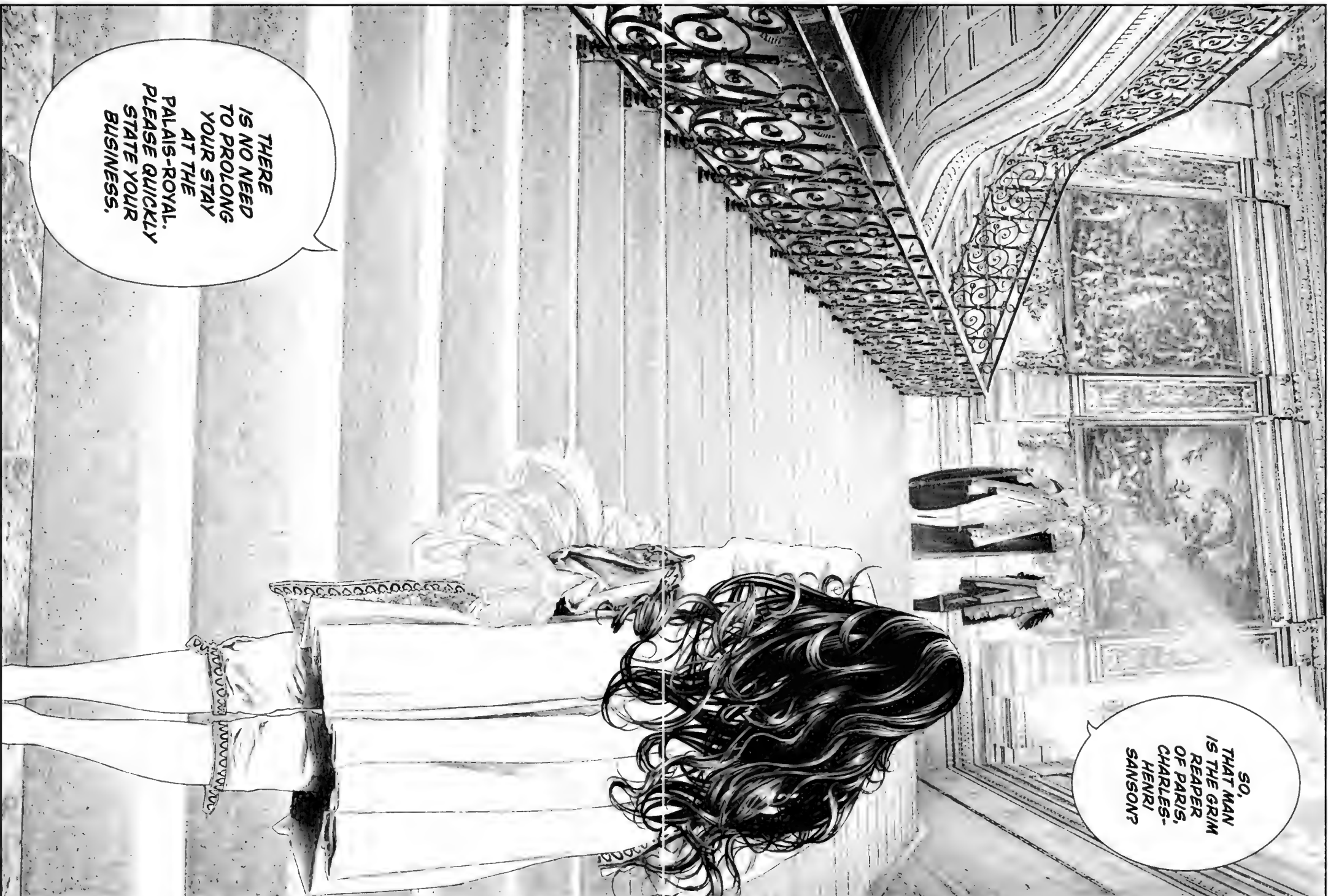


n°56 "Ideals and Freedom"
in Secret

LADY
MARIE
WILL SOON
BE
TWELVE.

PERHAPS
BOTH HER
BODY AND SOUL
ARE BECOMING
MORE
LADYLIKE...

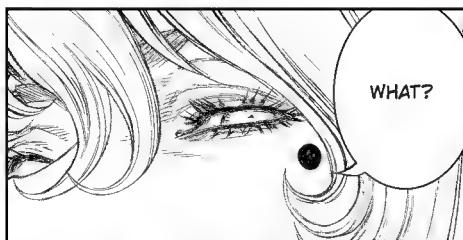




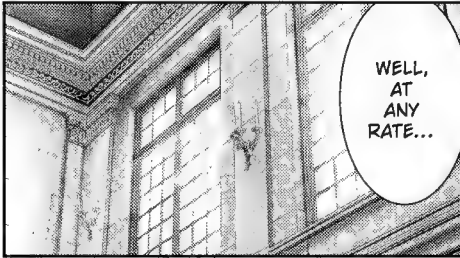
SO,
THAT MAN
IS THE GRIM
REAPER
OF PARIS,
CHARLES-
HENRI
SANSON?

THERE
IS NO NEED
TO PROLONG
YOUR STAY
AT THE
PALAIS-ROYAL.
PLEASE QUICKLY
STATE YOUR
BUSINESS.









WELL,
AT
ANY
RATE...



WHO
WOULD'VE
THOUGHT
THAT THE
GRIM REAPER
WOULD BE
BLESSED
WITH SUCH
A BEAUTIFUL
FACE?

GOR-
GORGEIOUS.



BUT
WHAT CAN
ONE DO AT
THIS POINT
BUT EXAMINE
A NEW MANNER
IN WHICH TO
PROCEED.

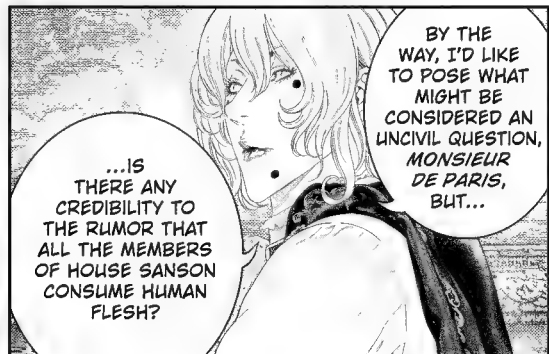
...I
WAS RATHER
LOOKING FORWARD
TO SEEING
THE EXECUTION
CARRIED OUT...
THE FRESH BLOOD
SPURTING
AND GUTS
FLYING...

...WITH A
FLAMBOYANCE
THAT COULD
ONLY BE
ACHIEVED BY
THE UNSKILLED
HAND OF THAT
YOUNG GIRL.



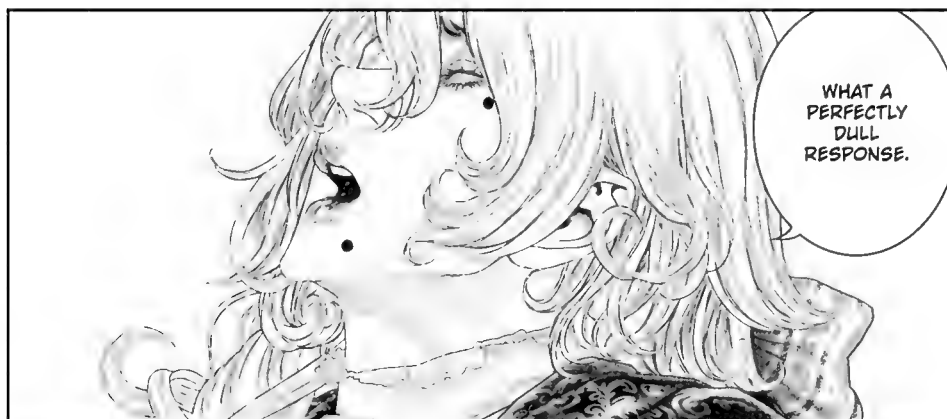
NO,
NOTHING
OF THE
SORT
HAPPENS...

WE
ARE BUT
PERFECTLY
NORMAL
PEOPLE,
YOUR
HIGHNESS.



...IS
THERE ANY
CREDIBILITY TO
THE RUMOR THAT
ALL THE MEMBERS
OF HOUSE SANSON
CONSUME HUMAN
FLESH?

BY THE
WAY, I'D LIKE
TO POSE WHAT
MIGHT BE
CONSIDERED AN
UNCIVIL QUESTION,
MONSIEUR
DE PARIS,
BUT...



WHAT A
PERFECTLY
DULL
RESPONSE.



AHH,
ENDLESS
ENNUI
ENSUES.

IS THERE
NOT SOMETHING
THAT WILL AGITATE
THE WORLD AND
BESTOW UPON
US A MODICUM
OF EXCITEMENT
IN THIS TEDIOUS,
INSIPID
EXISTENCE?

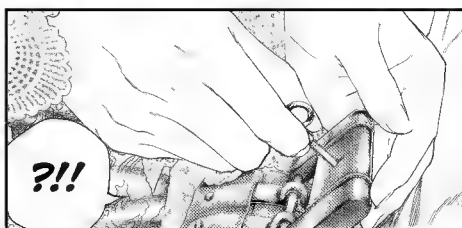
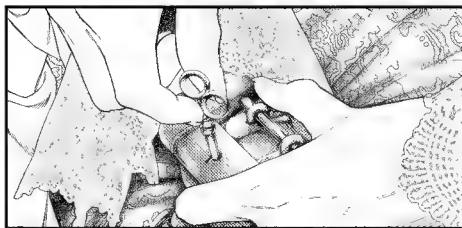


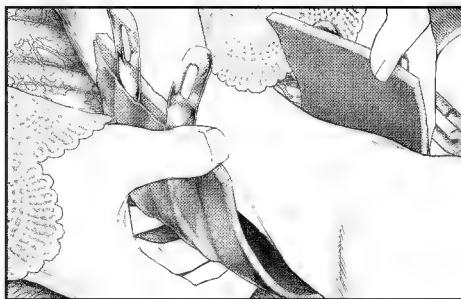
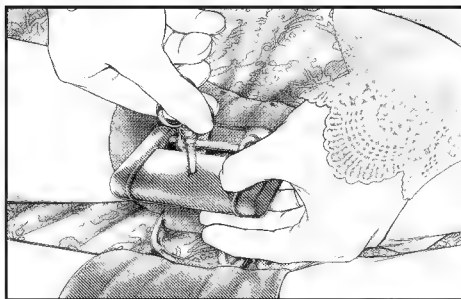
ANDRE,
IS
THAT
YOU?



SUCH
A
DREADFUL
SHAME...

THIS IS
UNBESITTING
OF YOU,
LADY
MARIE.







INDESCRIBABLY
BEAUTIFUL.

THERE
IS
NOTHING
THAT
SUITS
LADY
MARIE
BETTER
THAN
FREEDOM.



BUT
IT WAS
THROUGH
SERVING
YOU, LADY
MARIE, THAT I
CAME TO THE
INCREDIBLE
REALIZATION...



I'VE
ENDURED
MANY YEARS
OF SERVICE TO
LORD JEAN-
BAPTISTE AND
LORD NICOLAS,
SO I ASSURE
YOU...

...I
AM NOT
PRESUMPTUOUS
ABOUT MY
STATION
IN THIS
WORLD.

AS
ETERNALLY
AS THE SUN SHALL
RISE, THE MASTER
IS ALWAYS THE
MASTER, AND
THE SERVANT IS
NAUGHT BUT THE
SERVANT.



...THAT
IT IS THE
FEMALE
HAWKS WHO
COMMAND
THE GREAT
SKIES
ABOVE!



I WOULD
HAVE LIKED
TO SEE THE
SCENERY
THAT WILL
UNFOLD IN
THE NEW
ERA WITH
YOU...

I SHAN'T
IMAGINE
THAT
WE WILL
EVER
MEET
AGAIN.

ADIEU,
LADY
MARIE.

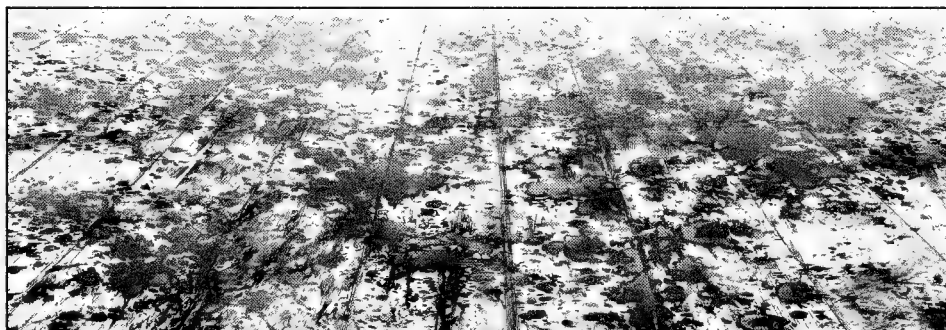
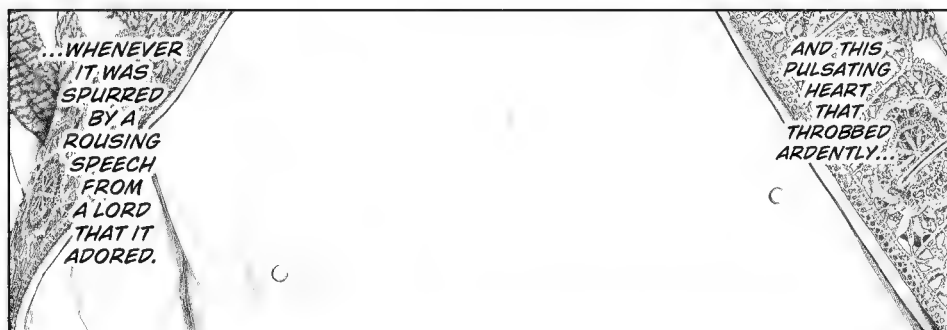
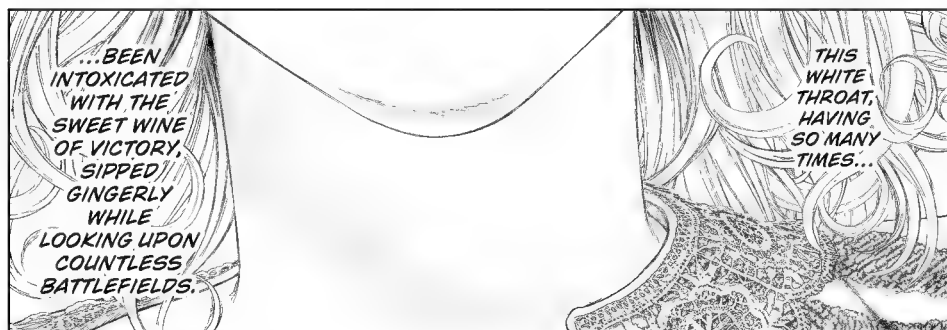
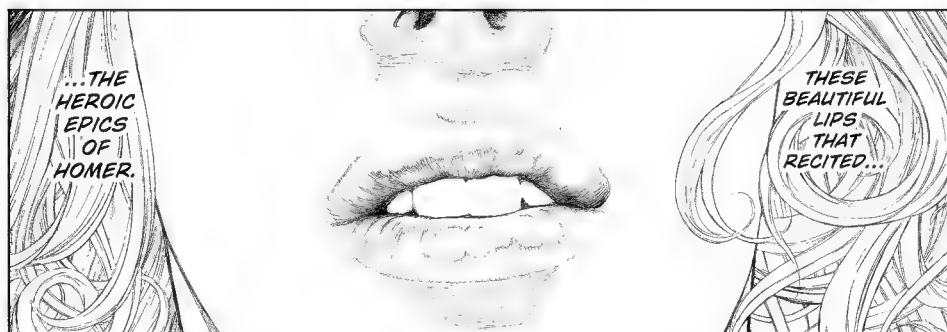


**...BE
PROUD OF
YOURSELF,
AND FLY
HIGH
UNTO
THOSE
HEIGHTS
TO WHICH
YOU
ASPIRE!**



**WITH
THAT,
LADY
MARIE...**







...AND
BECOME
BUT A
PULPOUS
MASS OF
FLESH,
LEFT TO
LANGUISH
IN THE
GAZE OF
CURIOUS
ONLOOKERS.

AS
THE SUN
DAWNS
UPON THE
MORROW,
MY YOUNG
FLESH,
ONLY
TWENTY
YEARS
OF AGE,
SHALL BE
STAINED
CRIMSON...

n°57 Devotion to Beauty



...FORCED
TO SUFFER
THE TORMENT
OF A
BUTCHERING
AT THE
HANDS OF
THAT YOUNG
EXECUTIONER
WHO
APPROACHES
HER WORK
WITH THE
DELICACY OF
A DEMON!

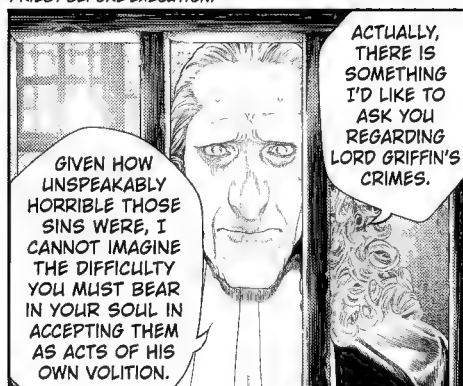
IT IS
TRULY
HORRIFIC!
MY FATE
WILL NOT
BE UNLIKE
THAT OF
LORD
GRIFFIN--
JUST TWO
MONTHS
AGO...



F-
FATHER
CONFES-
SOR?!

DOES THE
SACRAMENT*
NOT ALWAYS
OCCUR ON
THE MORN
OF THE
EXECUTION?
WHY ARE YOU
HERE NOW?

*THE RITUAL CONFESSION OF ONE'S SINS AND CRIMES TO A
PRIEST BEFORE EXECUTION.

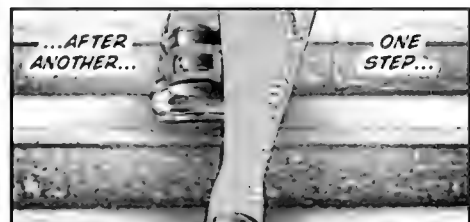


GIVEN HOW
UNSPEAKABLY
HORRIBLE THOSE
SINS WERE, I
CANNOT IMAGINE
THE DIFFICULTY
YOU MUST BEAR
IN YOUR SOUL IN
ACCEPTING THEM
AS ACTS OF HIS
OWN VOLITION.

ACTUALLY,
THERE IS
SOMETHING
I'D LIKE TO
ASK YOU
REGARDING
LORD GRIFFIN'S
CRIMES.



GEORGES
DE LA
TOUR.

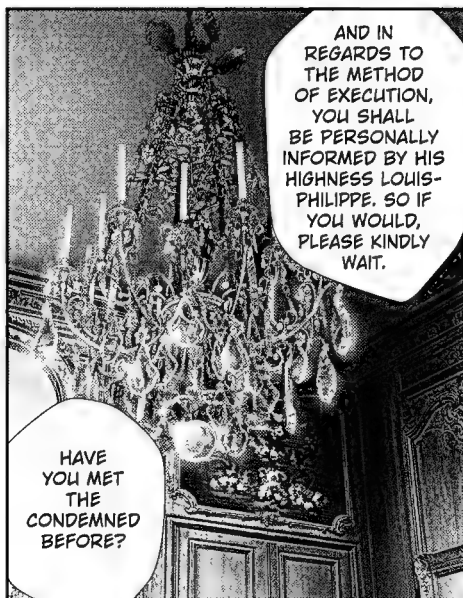




**MY
HEART
WILL
NOT
STOP
RACING!**

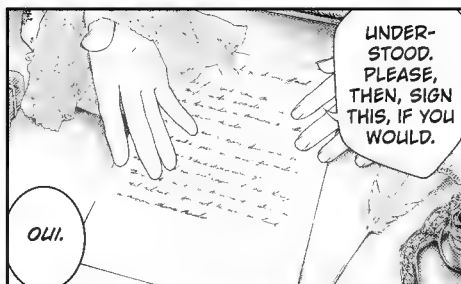
**I
AM THE
PRÉVÔTÉ DE
L'HÔTEL,
MARIE-
JOSEPH
SANSON.**

**I AM
HERE TO
ACCEPT THE
AUTHORIZED
DUTY TO
PERFORM THE
EXECUTION
OF GEORGES
DE LA TOUR
TOMORROW.**



HAVE
YOU MET
THE
CONDEMNED
BEFORE?

AND IN
REGARDS TO
THE METHOD
OF EXECUTION,
YOU SHALL
BE PERSONALLY
INFORMED BY HIS
HIGHNESS LOUIS-
PHILIPPE. SO IF
YOU WOULD,
PLEASE KINDLY
WAIT.

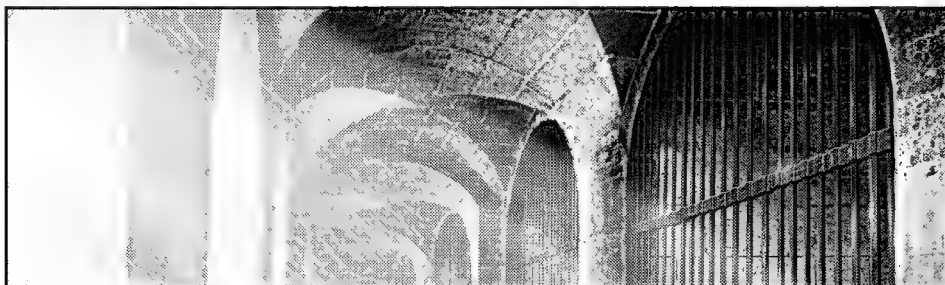


OUI.

UNDER-
STOOD.
PLEASE,
THEN, SIGN
THIS, IF YOU
WOULD.



EXCELLENT.
IT
APPEARS
I MANAGED
TO GET
HERE
BEFORE
MY
BROTHER.



NOOOOOOO!

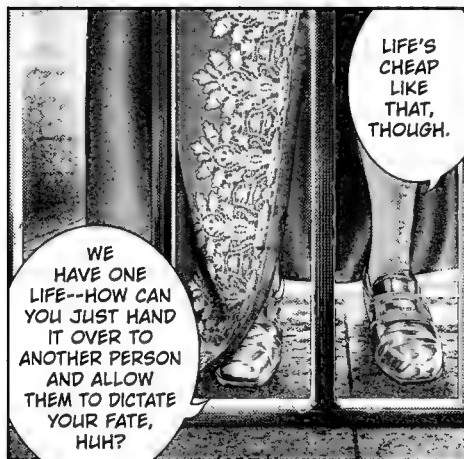
AHHHHH!!



MY
ESTEEMED,
UNIMPEACH-
ABLE
LORD
GRIFFIN...

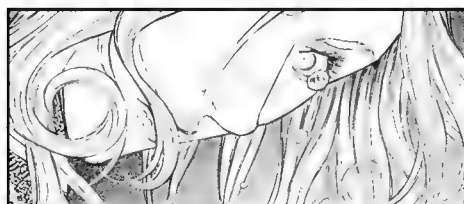
IT'S...
IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE.
HE RAPED
THAT
DISGUSTING
EXECUTIONER
GIRL?!

IT
SIMPLY
CANNOT
BE!!



LIFE'S
CHEAP
LIKE
THAT,
THOUGH.

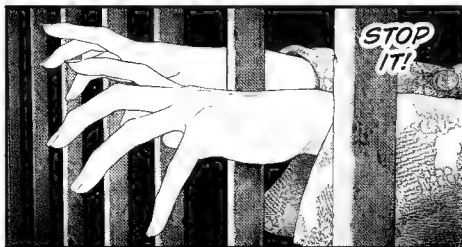
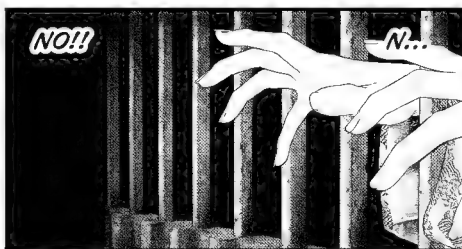
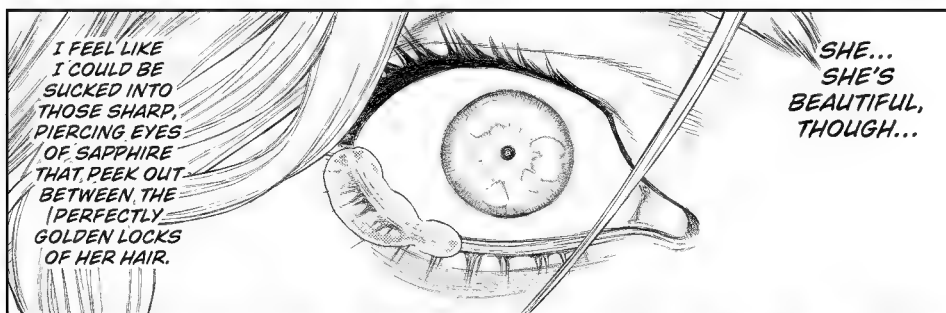
WE
HAVE ONE
LIFE--HOW CAN
YOU JUST HAND
IT OVER TO
ANOTHER PERSON
AND ALLOW
THEM TO DICTATE
YOUR FATE,
HUH?




IF
WHAT THE
FATHER
CONFESSOR
SAID IS
TRUE...

WHAT
ON EARTH
HAVE I BEEN
DOING WITH
THIS LIFE
OF MINE,
AND FOR
WHAT?! FOR
WHO?!









FOR
EVEN IF
MY HANDS
WERE
PRICKED,
WOUNDED,
AND
BLOODIED
BY THE
THORNS
THAT GUARD
THIS ROSE
SO
INTENSELY...

...I'M BUT
A SLAVE
TO THE
IMPULSES
THAT DRIVE
ME TO PICK
AND BREAK
FROM THE
STEM--
AND THUS
DESTROY--
THIS NOBLE
AND
BEAUTIFUL
FLOWER.

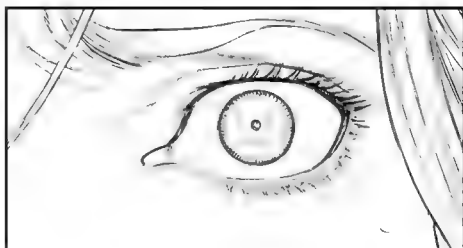
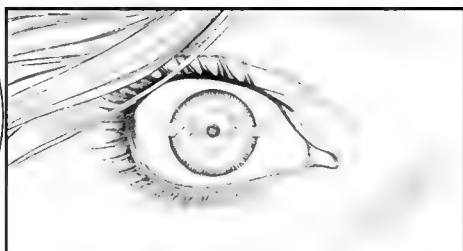


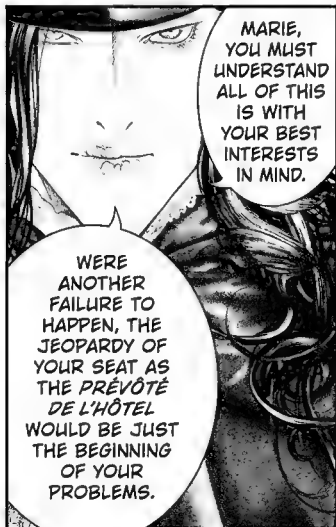
**MARIE
BELONGS
TO NO
ONE.**

**EVEN
IF THAT
NO ONE
WERE THE
LORD GOD
HIMSELF.**



**ALL
RIGHT,
MARIE.
ENOUGH.**





MARIE,
YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND
ALL OF THIS
IS WITH
YOUR BEST
INTERESTS
IN MIND.

WERE
ANOTHER
FAILURE TO
HAPPEN, THE
JEOPARDY OF
YOUR SEAT AS
THE *PRÉVÔTÉ*
DE L'HÔTEL
WOULD BE JUST
THE BEGINNING
OF YOUR
PROBLEMS.



NOW
THEN...

...RELINQUISH
TO ME THE
LETTER OF
AUTHORIZATION.

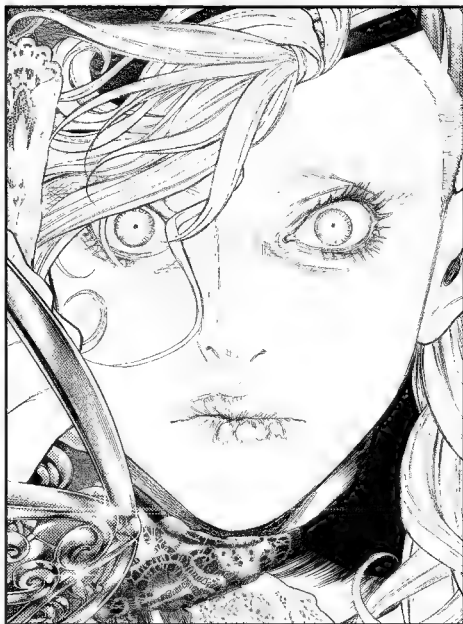


JUST
SAY IT--IT'S
ALL WITH THE
INTERESTS
OF HOUSE
SANSON
IN MIND.

PFFT,
YOU'RE
SUCH
A LYING
PIECE OF
SHIT.

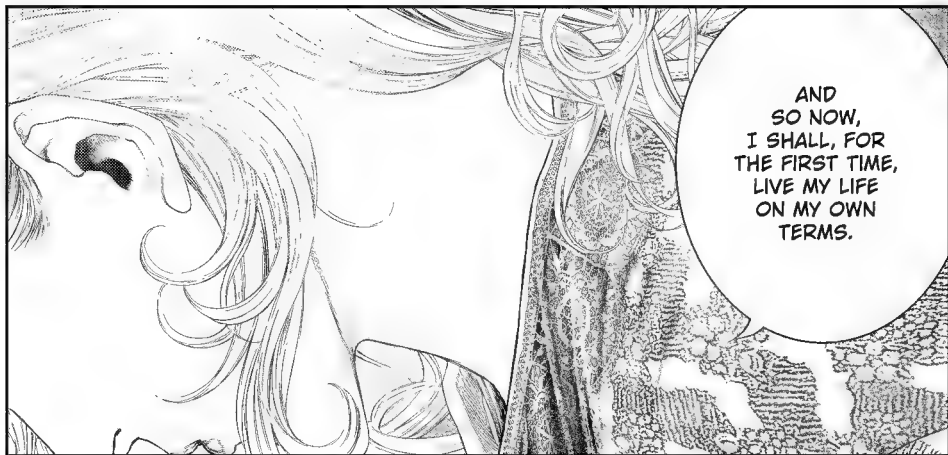






...UPON
MEETING YOU,
I AM HUMBLLED
AND TOUCHED BY
YOUR MOST NOBLE
OF SPIRITS, AND NOW
REALIZE THAT I AM
NAUGHT BUT AN
UNENLIGHTENED
YOKEL.

UNTIL NOW,
I ALWAYS BELIEVED
THAT IT WAS THE ONE
TRUE, WORLDLY HONOR
TO BEND ONESELF TO
THE WILL OF ONE'S
SUPERIORS WHILE
ATTIRED IN SOME
TRADITIONAL
MILITARY UNIFORM.
HOWEVER...



AND
SO NOW,
I SHALL, FOR
THE FIRST TIME,
LIVE MY LIFE
ON MY OWN
TERMS.



LADY
MARIE-
JOSEPH
SANSON...

...MY
HEAD
IS
YOURS
TO
TAKE.



THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM, THEN, SINCE THE PETITION IS COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE CONDEMNED, RIGHT?

AND THIS IS WHERE I ASK THAT YOU WITHDRAW, MONSIEUR DE PARIS!



A MESSAGE HAS ARRIVED FROM HIS HIGHNESS LOUIS-PHILIPPE!

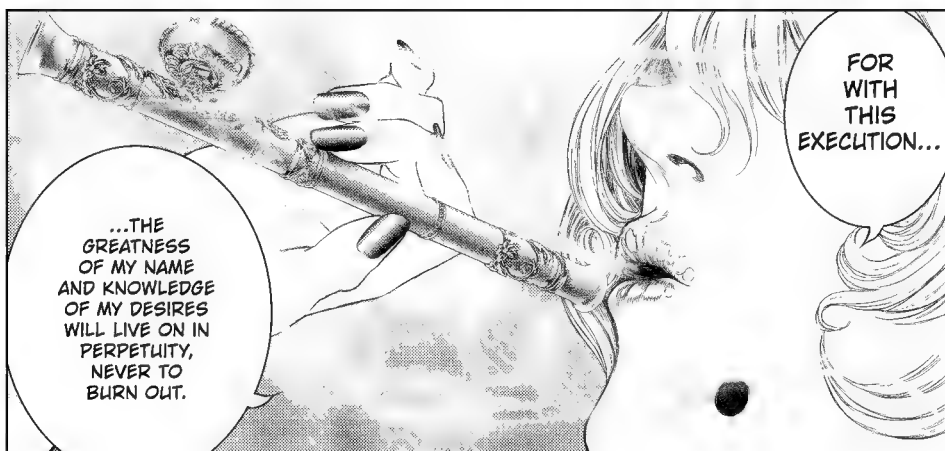
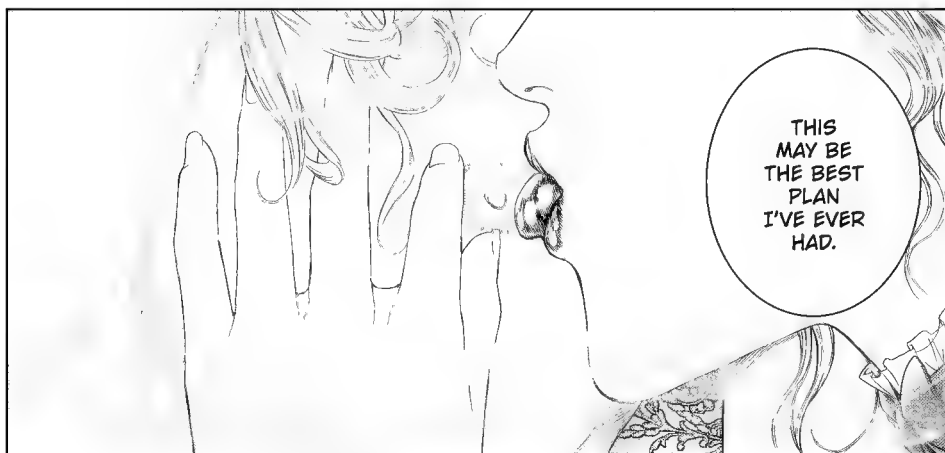


...ENSURE THAT BLOOD RAINS DOWN UPON THE STREETS OF PARIS!

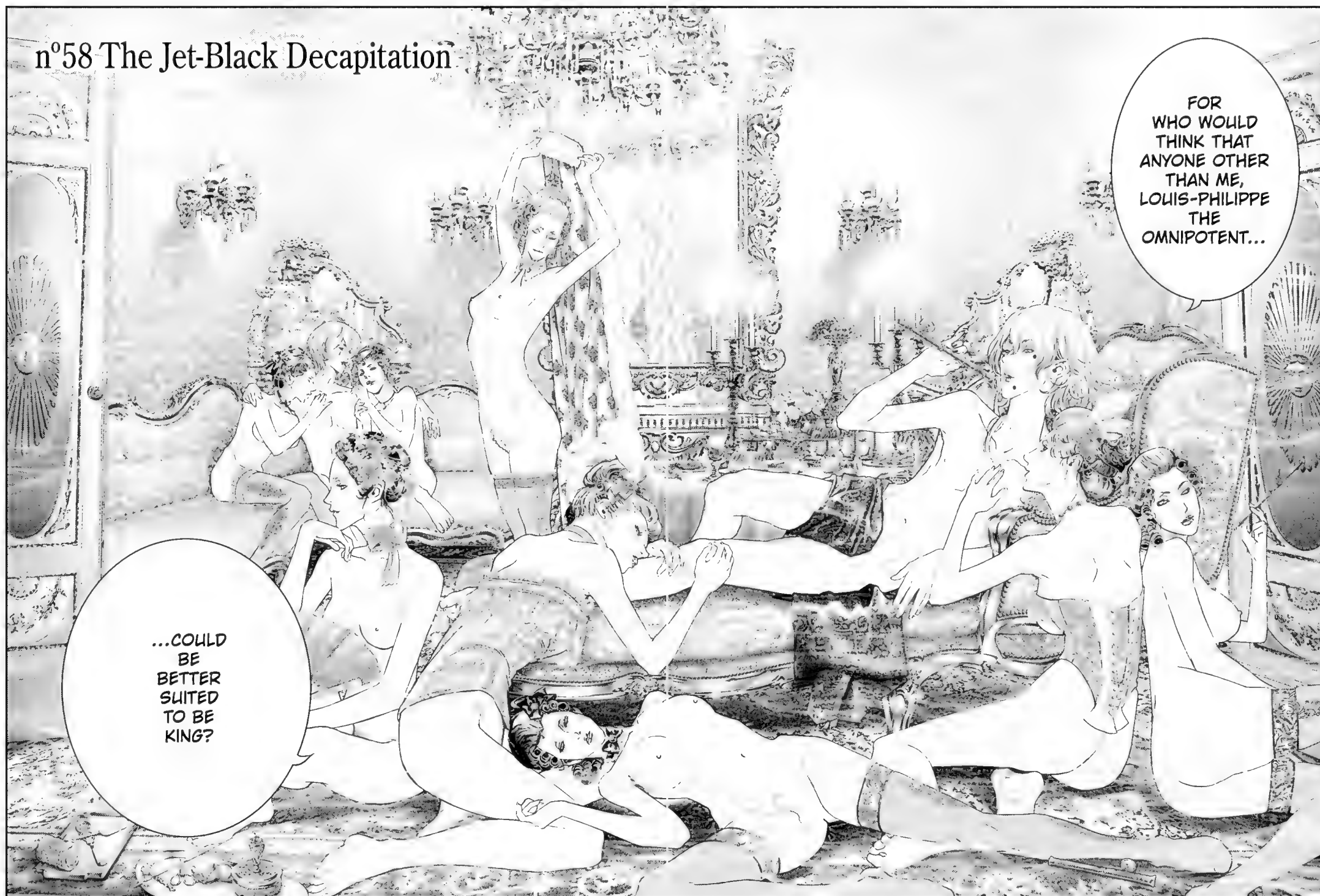
ASKING THAT THE METHOD OF EXECUTION...



WHAT THE...

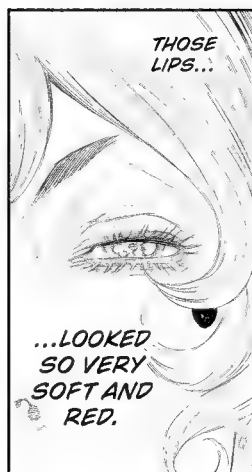
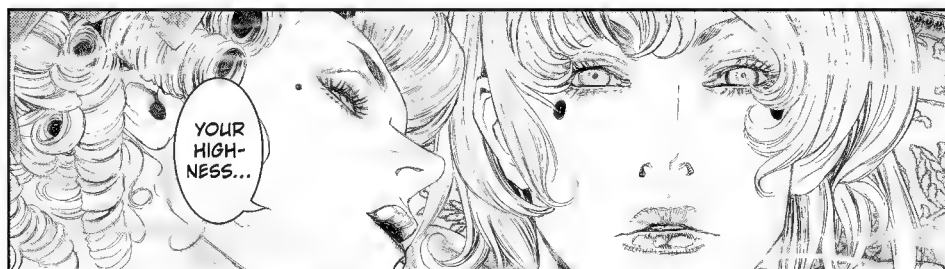
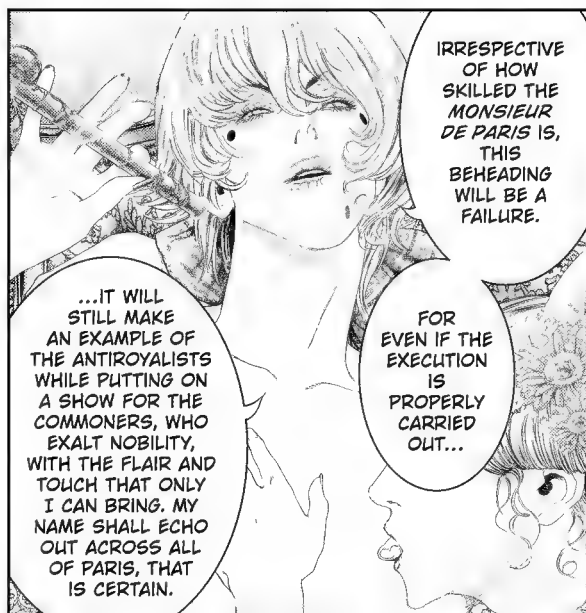


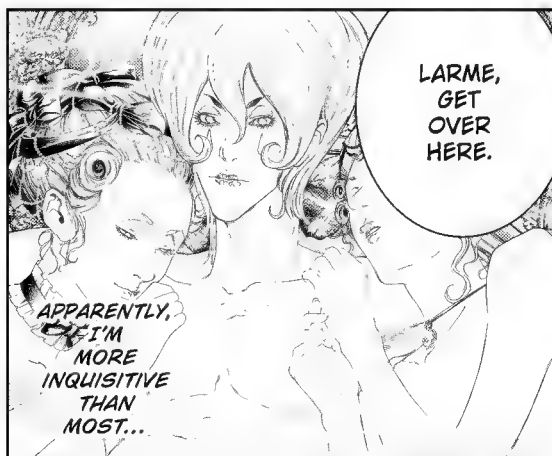
n°58 The Jet-Black Decapitation

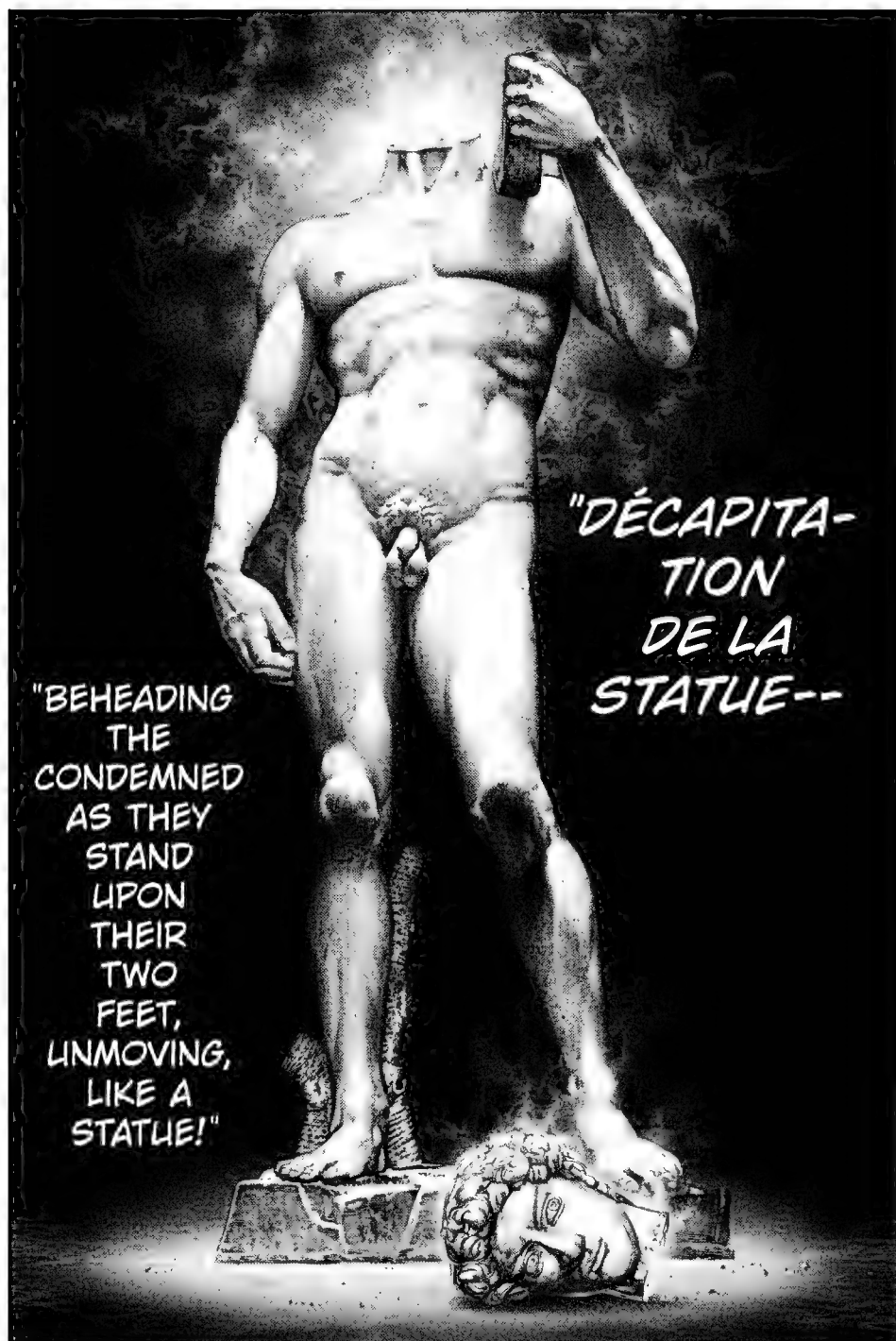


...COULD
BE
BETTER
SUITED
TO BE
KING?

FOR
WHO WOULD
THINK THAT
ANYONE OTHER
THAN ME,
LOUIS-PHILIPPE
THE
OMNIPOTENT...







"BEHEADING
THE
CONDEMNED
AS THEY
STAND
UPON
THEIR
TWO
FEET,
LINMOVING,
LIKE A
STATUE!"

"DÉCAPITA-
TION
DE LA
STATUE--



IT
GOES
WITHOUT
SAYING
THAT THE
VERY
NOTION IS
IMPOSSI-
BLE!

THERE'S
NO
WAY!



HEY...
HEY!

WHA-
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?
WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN TO
ME?!



THE
MAGISTRATE
HAS
ALREADY
SIGNED
OFF ON
IT.

SO
THERE'S
REALLY NO
CHOICE...UNLESS
YOU'D RATHER
INSULT HIS
NOBILITY BY
HAVING HIM
KNEEL IN
FRONT OF
COMMONERS.



WE
CANNOT HAVE
THE PENITENT
DECAPITATED
NOT ONLY
WITHOUT
RESTRAINT,
BUT WHILE
STANDING!

THIS
IS SIMPLY
IMPOSSIBLE,
EVEN WITH
FOUR
GENERATIONS
OF HOUSE
SANSON HAVING
PERFECTED
EVERY POSSIBLE
EXECUTION
TECHNIQUE!



*WHEN
THE HUMAN
HEAD
HANGS
FORWARD
WHILE
KNEEL-
ING, THE
ATLAS...

*...AND THE
AXIS MOVE
APART,
THUS,
ALLOWING
THE SWORD
TO MORE
EASILY BE
INSERTED.



MARIE,
YOU OF
ALL
PEOPLE
SHOULD
UNDER-
STAND
THIS.

THIS
DIFFERS VASTLY
FROM WHEN
LORD GRIFFIN
BENT DOWN
BEFORE YOU AND
OFFERED HIS
HEAD FOR YOU
TO TAKE.



"HOWEVER,
IF ONE
STANDS UP
STRAIGHT,
FULLY ERECT,
THEN THE
ATLAS RESTS
WITHIN THE
AXIS, WITH
NO OPENING,
ALLOWING NO
SPACE WHERE
THE SWORD
CAN STRIKE!"

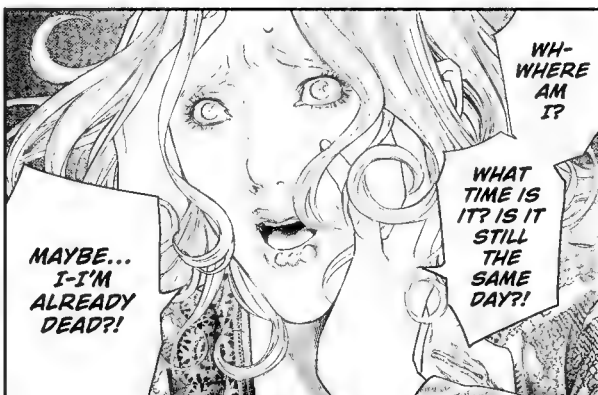
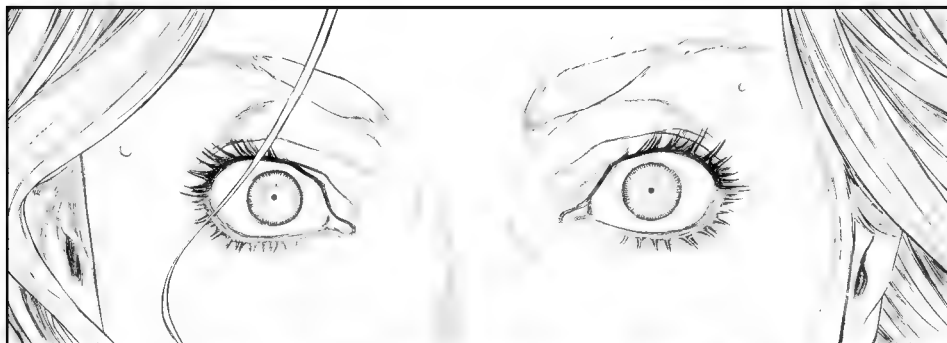


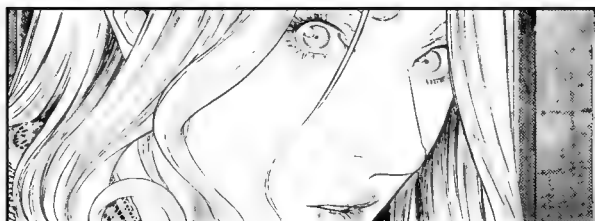
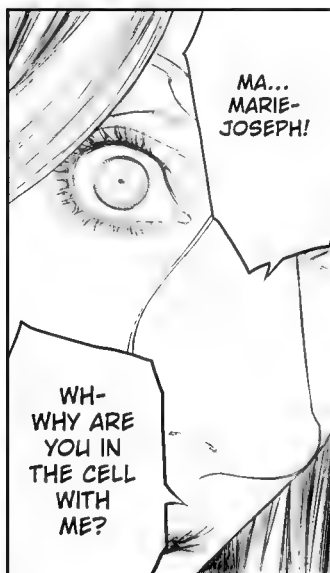
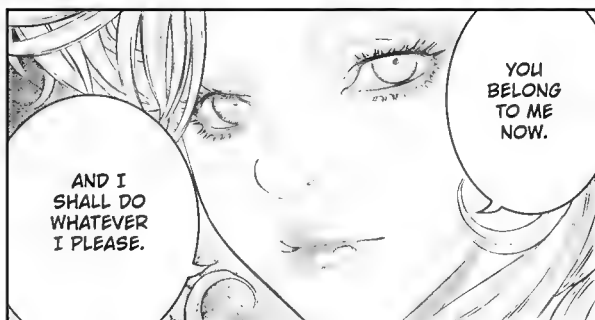
FOR EVERY
TIME IT IS PERFORMED,
IT IS NEVER COMPLETED
IN ONE STRIKE. THE
EXECUTIONER MUST
REPEATEDLY BRING
THE SWORD DOWN
ON THE PENITENT IN
A BRUTAL BALLET OF
BLOODSHED.

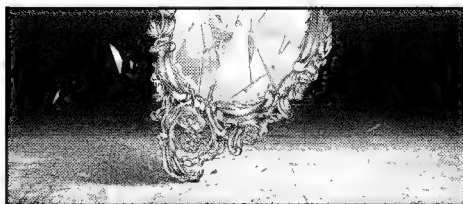
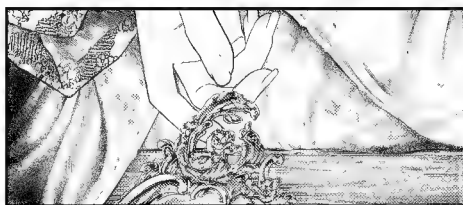
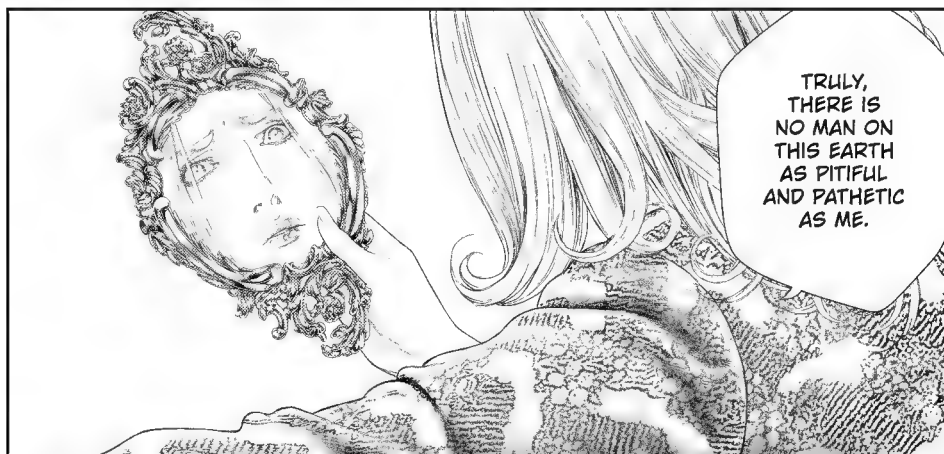
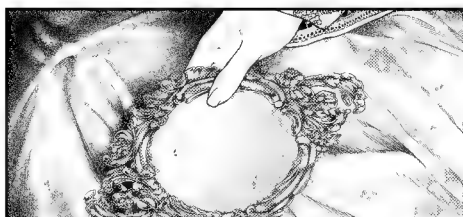
THE
ONE WHO
DREAMT UP
THIS CRUEL,
TORMENTING
METHOD OF
EXECUTION IS
NOTHING LESS
THAN THE
DEVIL.

DÉCAPITA-
TION
DE LA
STATUE...





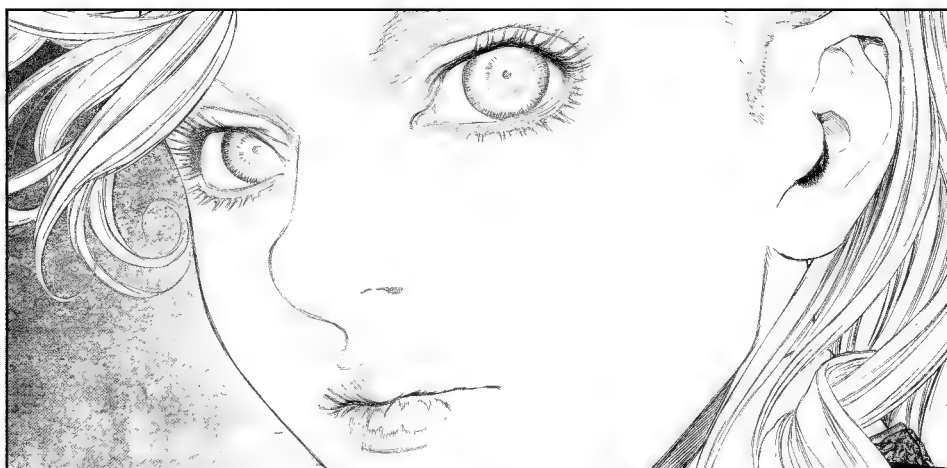
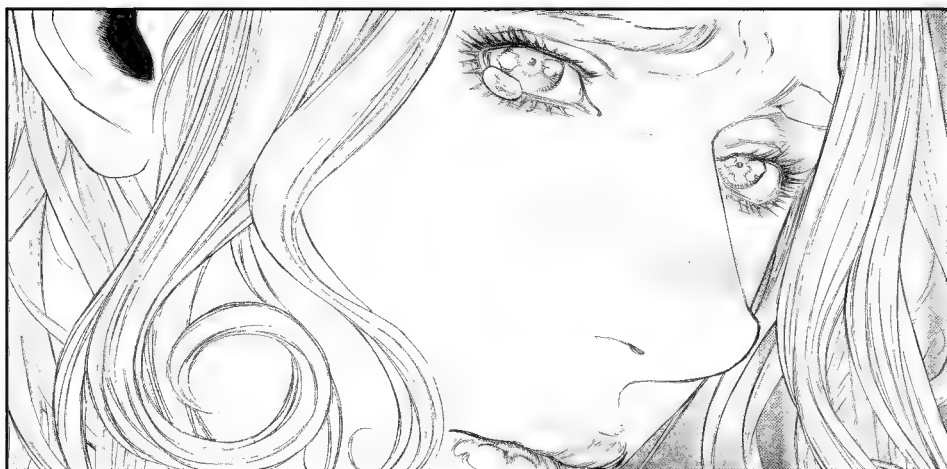






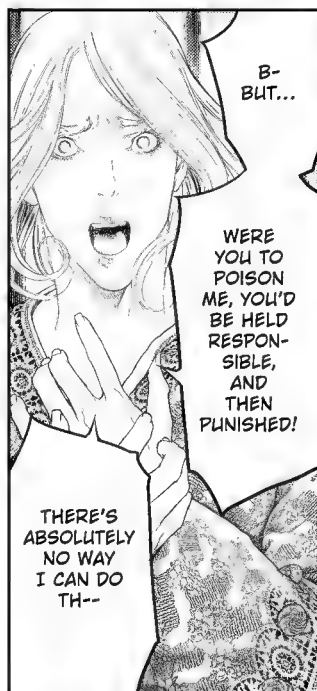
I'VE
BEEN
DAMNED
TO THINK
THAT THE
LAST FACE
I SHOW
ON THIS
EARTH,
AND TO
THE
WOMAN I
LOVE...

...WOULD
BE THE
MOST
HORRIBLY
REPLUGNANT
THING
THIS
WORLD
COULD
OFFER.



**DRINK
THIS.**





B-
BUT...

WERE
YOU TO
POISON
ME, YOU'D
BE HELD
RESPON-
SIBLE,
AND
THEN
PUNISHED!

THERE'S
ABSOLUTELY
NO WAY
I CAN DO
TH--



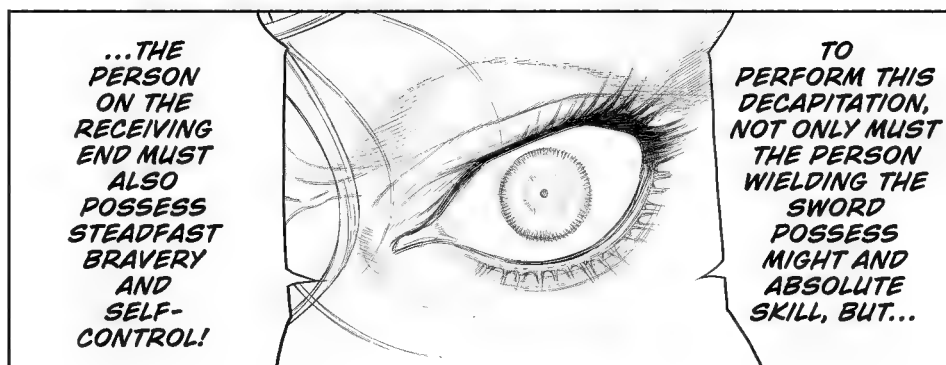
I BROUGHT
IT FROM OUR
ESTATE. IT'S
A TYPE OF
POISON THAT'S
BEEN IN THE
SANSON FAMILY
FOR SOME
TIME.

DRINK
THIS, AND
YOU SHALL BE
IMMEDIATELY
RELEASED
FROM YOUR
PARALYZING
FEAR.



WHAT
?!

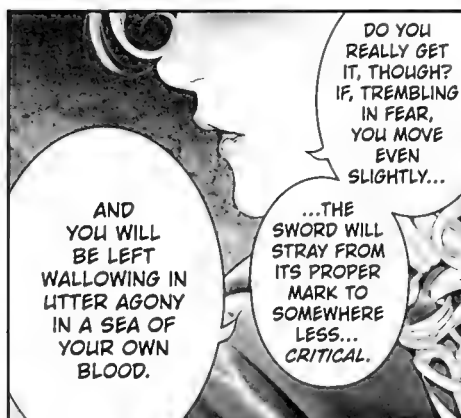
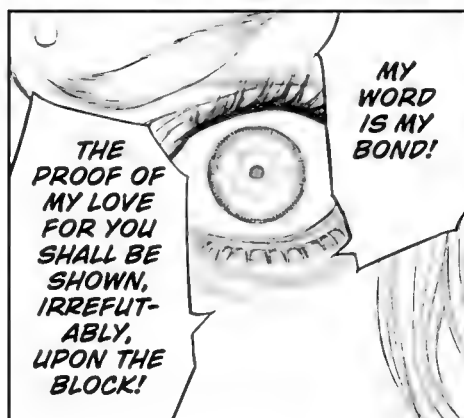
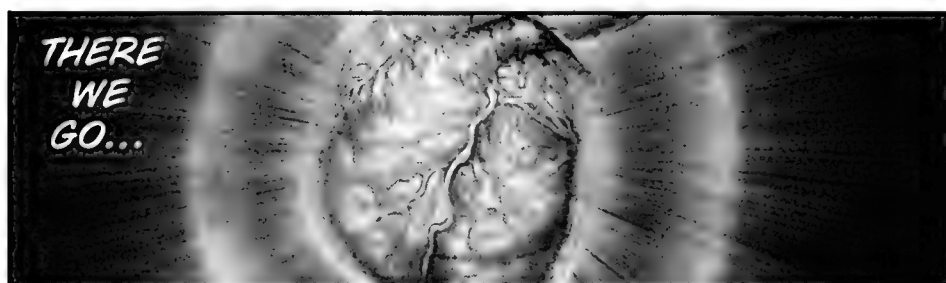
YOU THINK
I'M GONNA GET
UP ON THAT
PLATFORM AND
ALLOW MYSELF
TO BE
EMBARRASSED
BY THE LIKES
OF YOU?



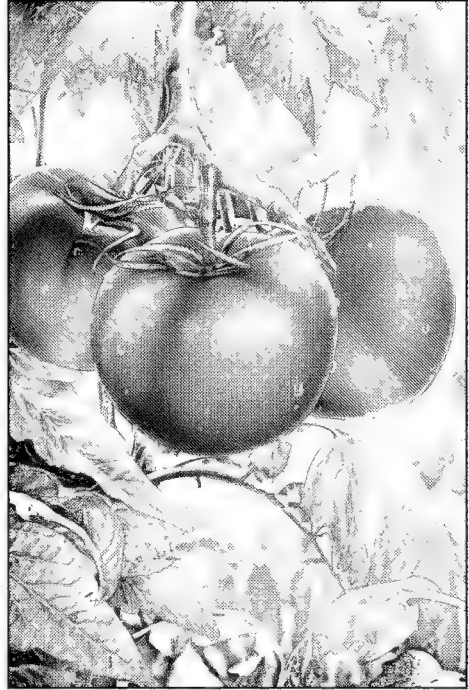
...THE
PERSON
ON THE
RECEIVING
END MUST
ALSO
POSSESS
STEADFAST
BRAVERY
AND
SELF-
CONTROL!

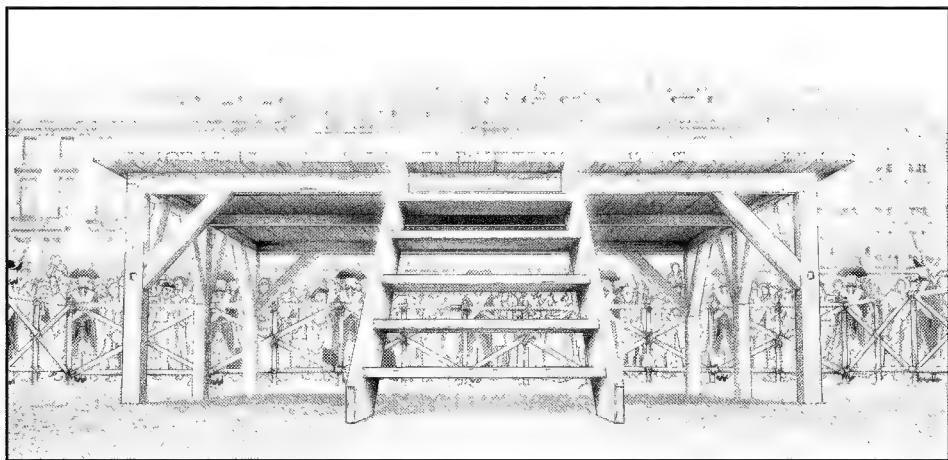
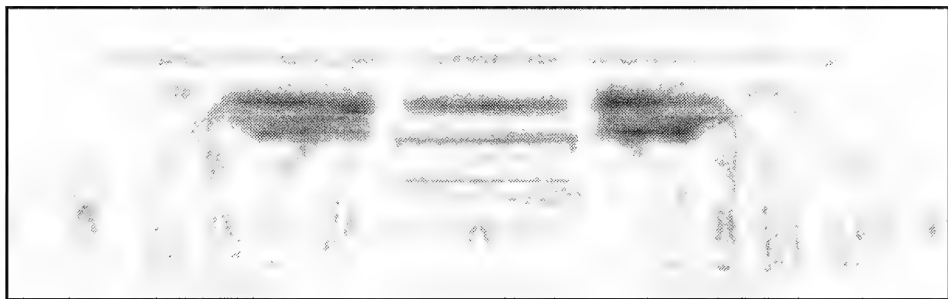
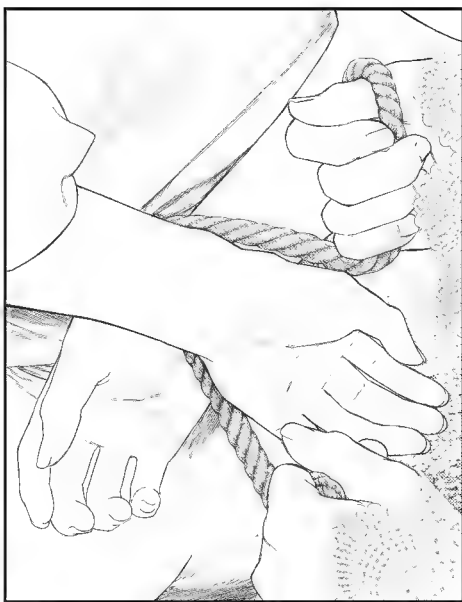
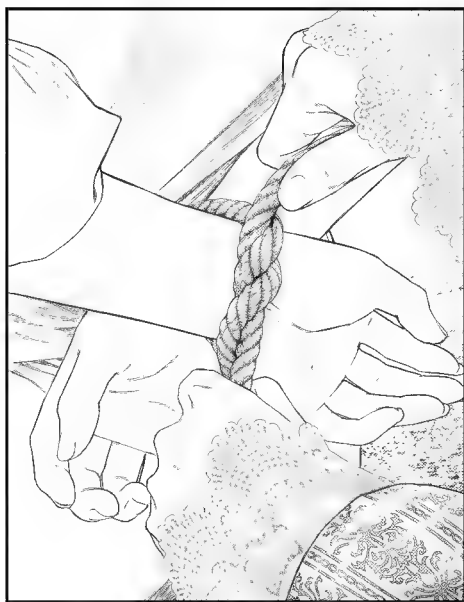
TO
PERFORM THIS
DECAPITATION,
NOT ONLY MUST
THE PERSON
WIELDING THE
SWORD
POSSESS
MIGHT AND
ABSOLUTE
SKILL, BUT...













I
SHALL
SOON
BE
DICED
INTO
PIECES...

...AND
LAID
OUT
UPON
THE
DINNER
TABLE.



...AND
GRACEFULLY
ACCEPT
THE FATED
BLADE
THAT THE
WOMAN
I LOVE
SHALL
BRING
DOWN
UPON ME.

BUT,
I SHALL
HOLD MY
HEAD HIGH
AND PROUD
UNTIL,
MY LAST
BREATH,
AS A
SOLDIER
OF THE
FRENCH
ARMY...

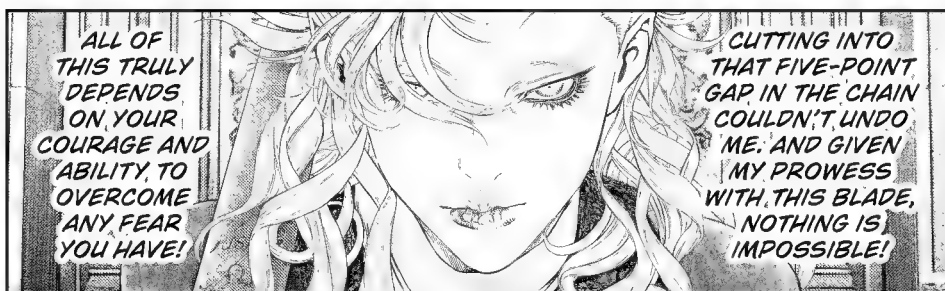
AND
NOW, THE
EXECUTION BY
BEHEADING
OF GEORGES
DE LA TOUR
FOR THE
CRIME OF
BLASPHEMY
SHALL
COMMENCE!

n°59 Prelude to the
Freshly Spilled Scarlet



MON
AMOUR,
MARIE-
JOSEPH
SANSON!

ALL OF
THIS
IS FOR
LOVE.

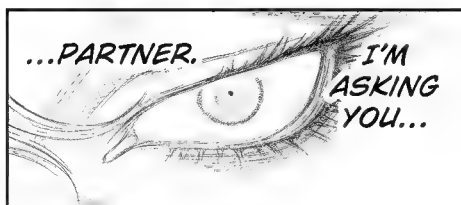


ALL OF
THIS TRULY
DEPENDS
ON YOUR
COURAGE AND
ABILITY, TO
OVERCOME
ANY FEAR
YOU HAVE!

CUTTING INTO
THAT FIVE-POINT
GAP IN THE CHAIN
COULDN'T UNDO
ME. AND GIVEN
MY PROWESS
WITH THIS BLADE,
NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE!

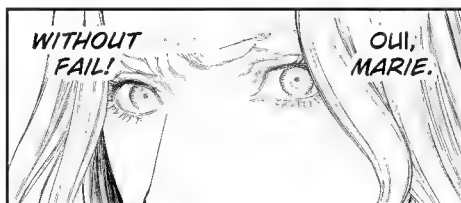


MARIE,
I NEED
TO SPEAK
TO YOU
FOR A
MOMENT.



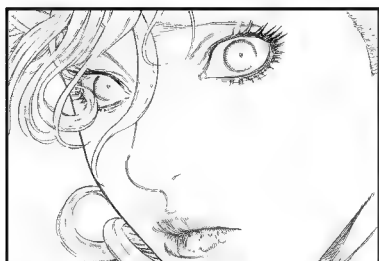
...PARTNER.

I'M
ASKING
YOU...



WITHOUT
FAIL!

OUI,
MARIE.



THIS MORNING, I DISMISSED A SERVANT OF HOUSE SANSON, ANDRE LEGRIS, FROM HIS EMPLOYMENT.

HE CAME FORWARD ON HIS OWN VOLITION TO CONFESS HIS CRIME OF RELEASING YOU.



I'M HERE WATCHING OVER YOU!

L-LADY MARIE!



MARIE, YOU ARE ALONE NOW.



IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE PUNISHMENT FOR THIS...

...YOU NEED ONLY CHANGE TO THE TYPICAL METHOD OF EXECUTION.



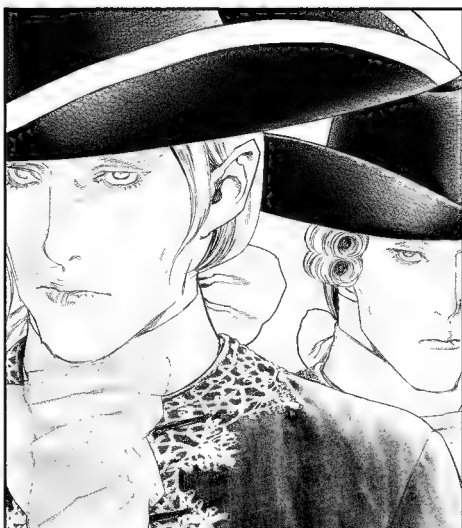
YOU
HAVE
NO
ALLIES.

KNOWING
THAT,
WILL
YOU
STILL
ASCEND
THE
PLATFORM?



WHETHER
WITH ALLIES
OR
WITHOUT--
NONE OF THAT
MATTERS.

PFFT,
ONE IS
ALWAYS
ALONE
ATOP THE
BLOCK.



SO YOU
ALL NEED
TO PIPE
DOWN!

THIS
IS MY
JOB.



IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
THEN I SHALL
NOT INTERFERE
IN THE
SLIGHTEST.



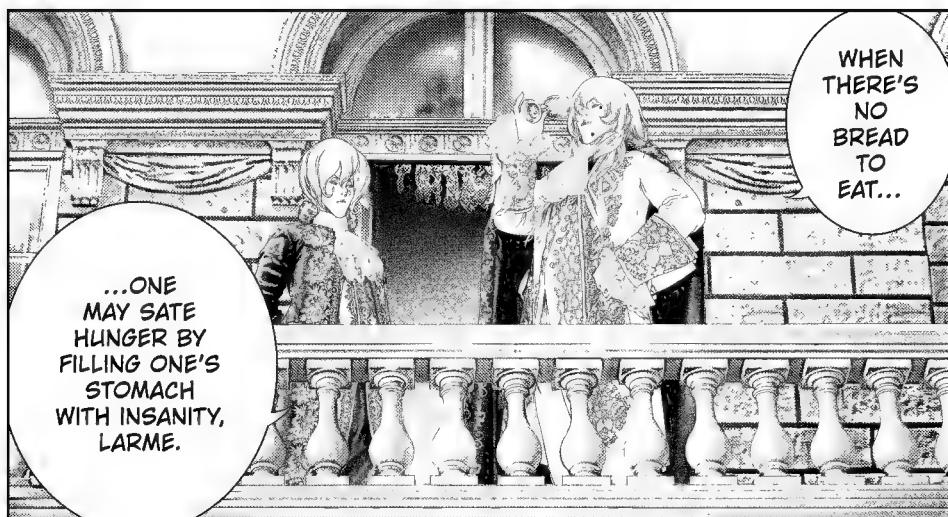
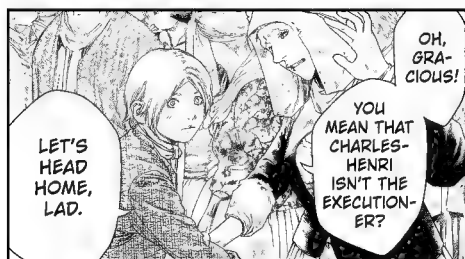


MARIE,
WHAT
COLOR
IS THE
FUTURE
THAT
REFLECTS
FROM
YOUR
EYES?

SHE'S
HERE!
MARIE-
JOSEPH
SANSON!

THAT
RED
LATTICE-
EMBROIDERED
GARMENT
LOOKS
LIKE IT WAS
MADE FOR
HER!

NOW
THEN,
LET
BLOOD
RAIN
DOWN
UPON
ALL OF
PARIS!



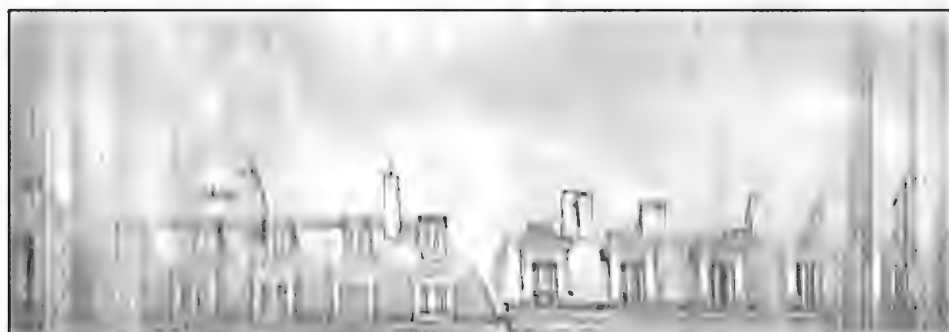


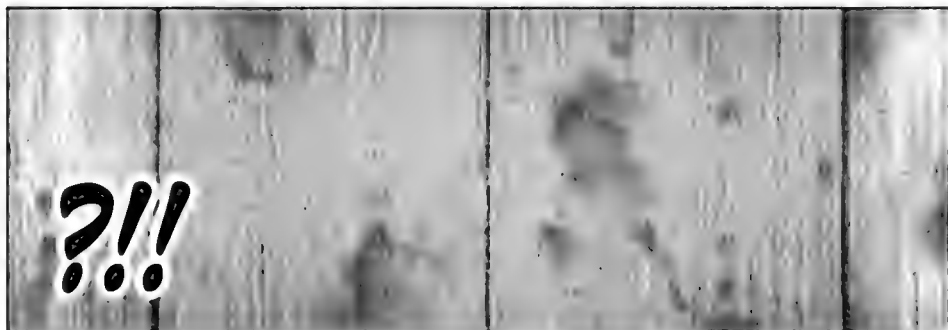
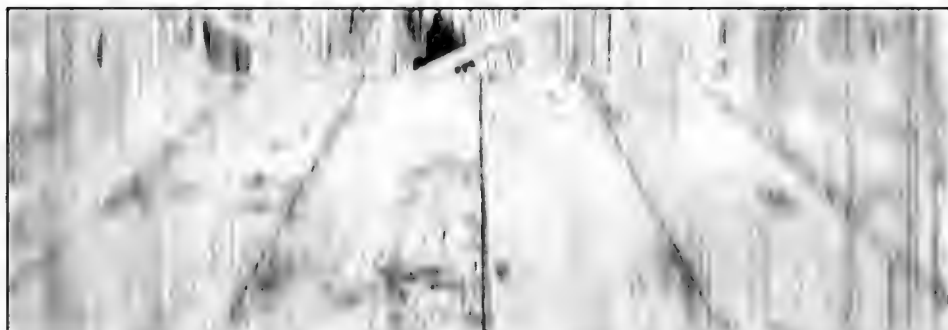
...WITH
THE
DÉCAPITATION
DE LA
STATUE...

SHOULD
THAT LADY
EXECUTIONER,
DRESSED AS
A MAN, FOLLOW
MY PLANS
AS THEY WERE
WOVEN...

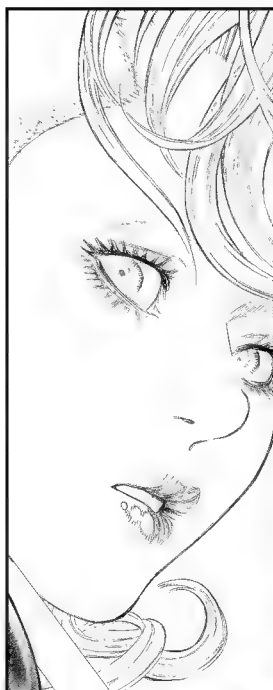


"...THE
CURTAIN
SHALL BE
RAISED
FOR MY
CRIMSON-
COLORED
OPERA!"

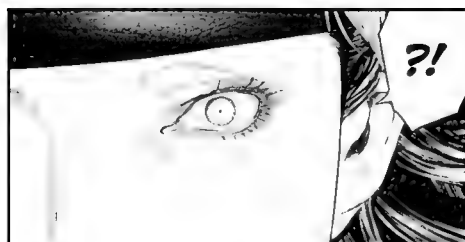
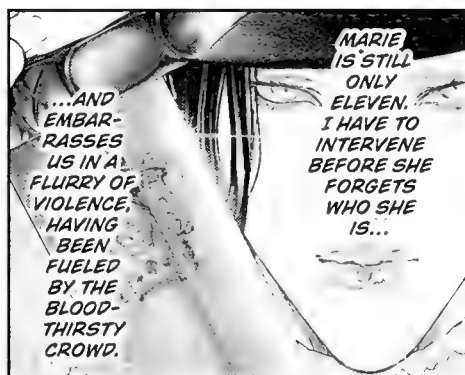




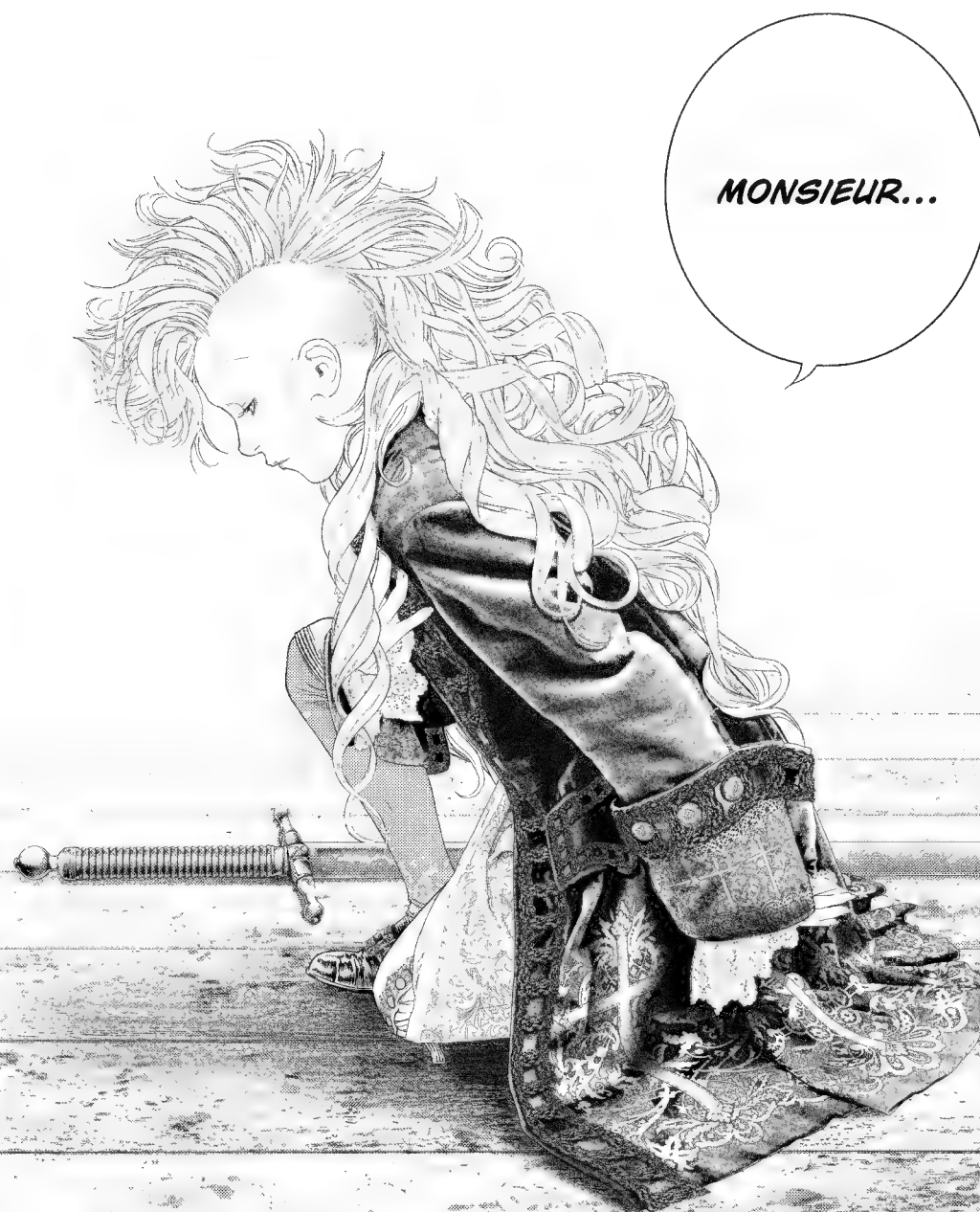


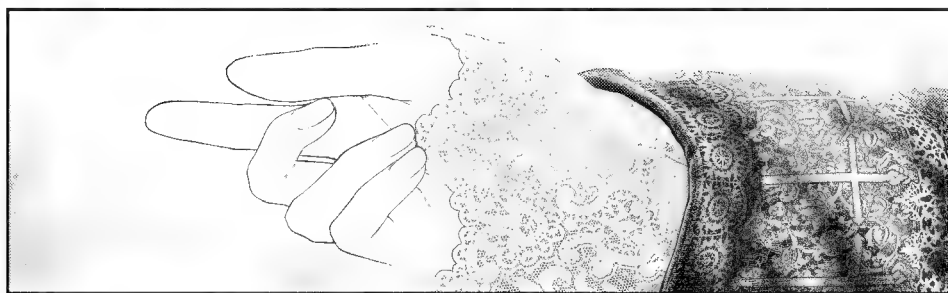
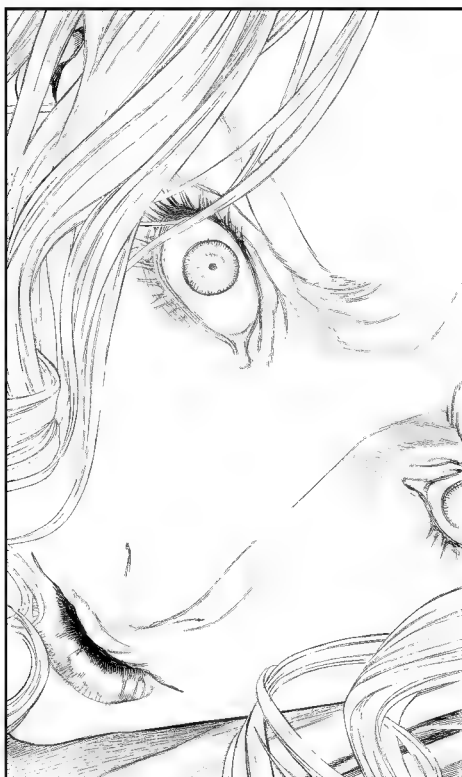






n°60 *Décapitation de la Statue unto Freedom*

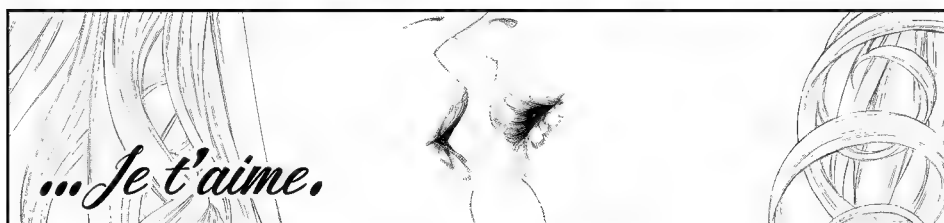








Marie-Joseph...



...Je t'aime.



IS
THAT
THE
SMELL
OF
SWEAT?



A
WILD
SCENT,
LIKE
THAT
OF A
BEAST.

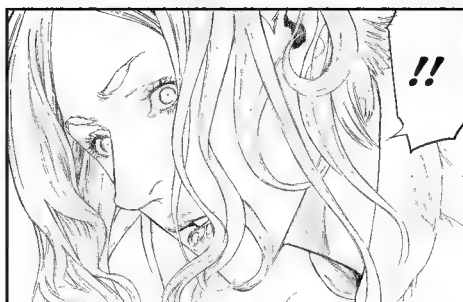
SO
THIS IS
THE SWEET
AROMA
THAT
EMANATES
FROM
YOUR
BODY.

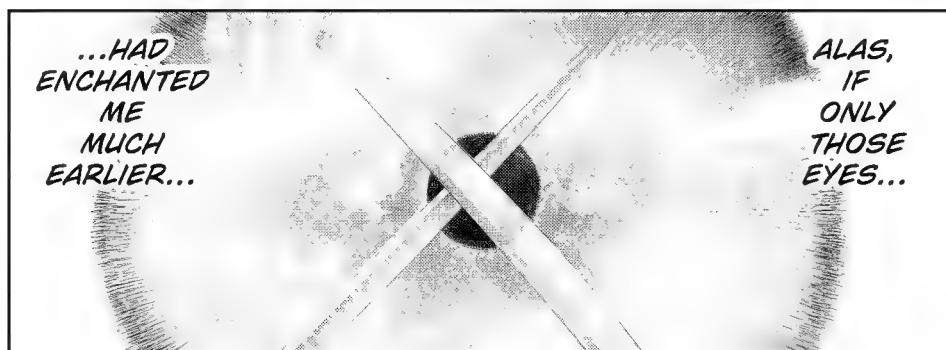
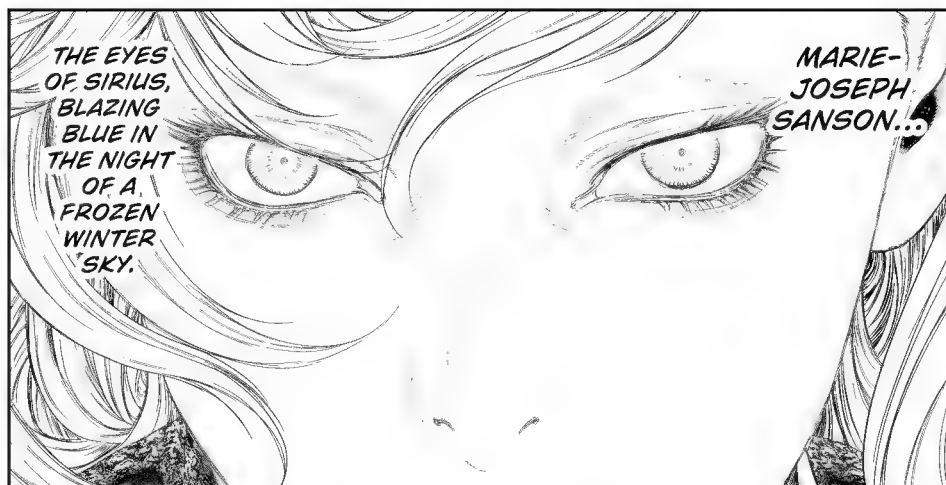


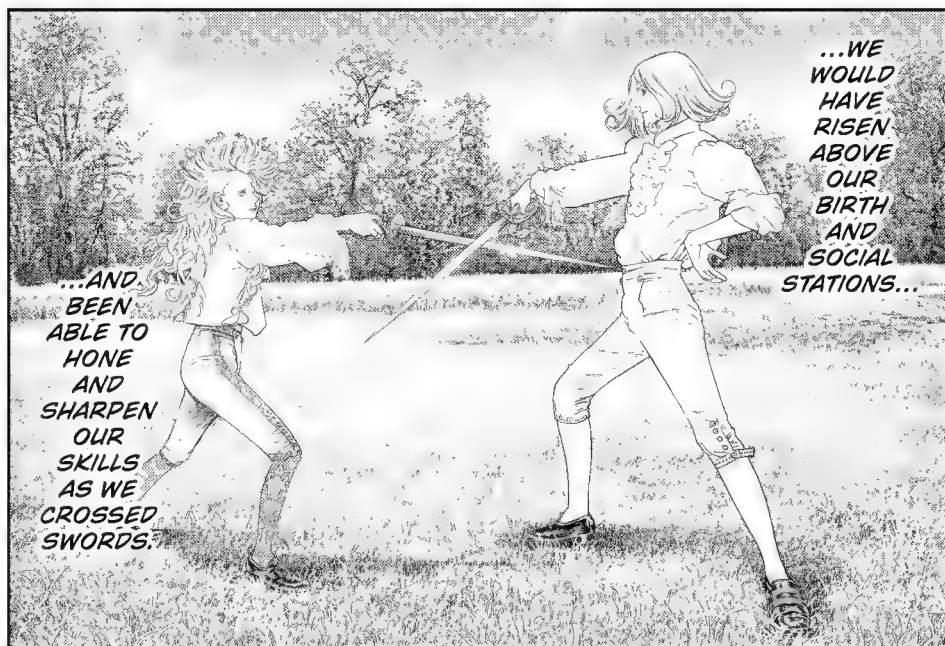
NOW
THEN,
SURRENDER
YOURSELF
TO ME.

**NOW
THIS IS
QUITE
ENCOURAG-
ING...**



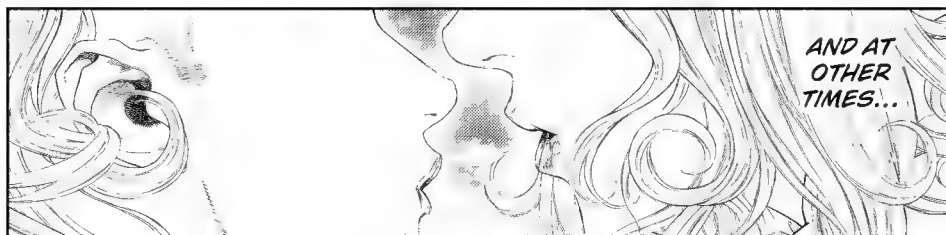




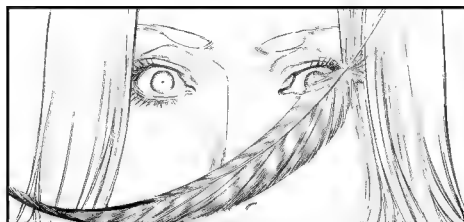


...AND
BEEN
ABLE TO
HONE
AND
SHARPEN
OUR
SKILLS
AS WE
CROSSED
SWORDS.

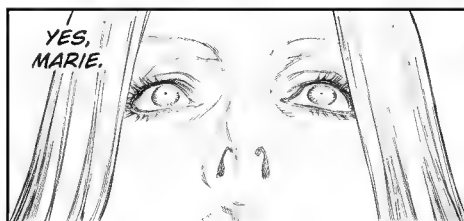
...WE
WOULD
HAVE
RISEN
ABOVE
OUR
BIRTH
AND
SOCIAL
STATIONS...



AND AT
OTHER
TIMES...



YES,
MARIE.



...AND
TOGETHER
OUR
BODIES
WOULD
HAVE
CONFIRMED
WITH EACH
OTHER
THAT
WHICH
IS THE
JOY OF
LIFE.

...IN THE
MIDST
OF A
FIELD OF
DAISIES
IN FULL
BLOOM,
OUR LIPS
WOULD
HAVE
FIERCELY
CONNECTED...



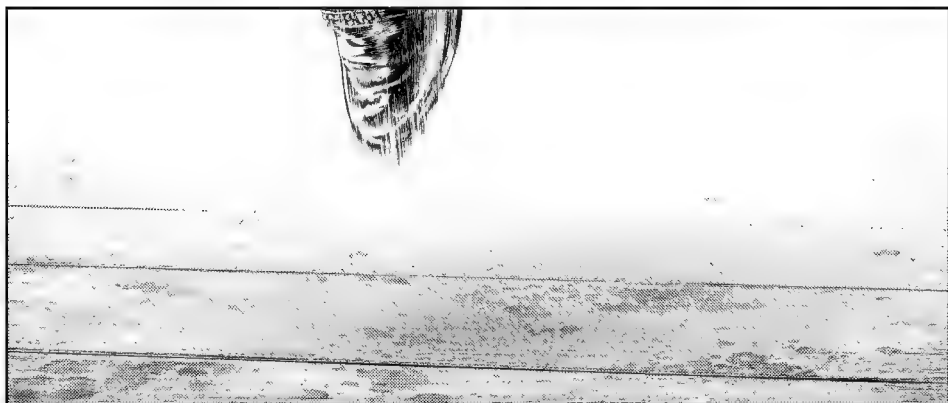
**YOU
ARE
NIKE,*
WITH HER
LIBERATING
WINGS.**

**AND
JUST BY
SETTING
MY GAZE
UPON YOU,
I CAN
FLY
ANYWHERE!**

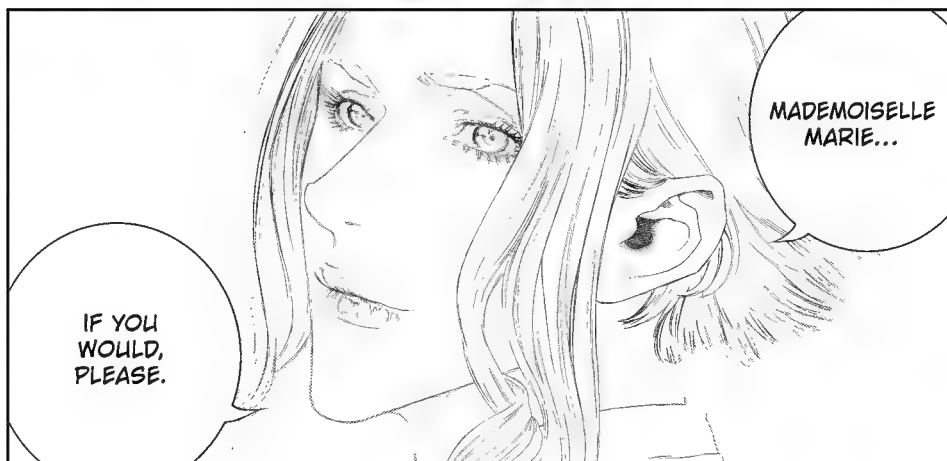
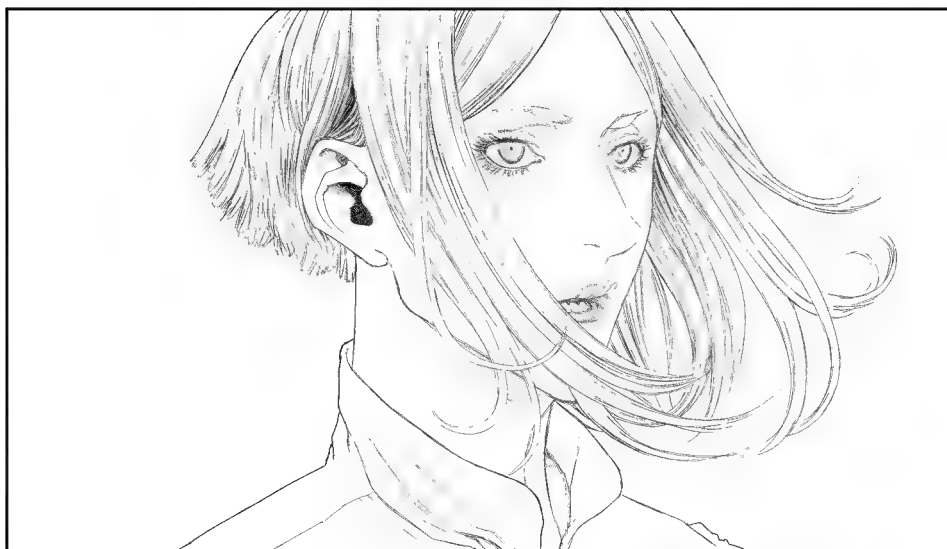
***THE GODDESS OF VICTORY FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY**





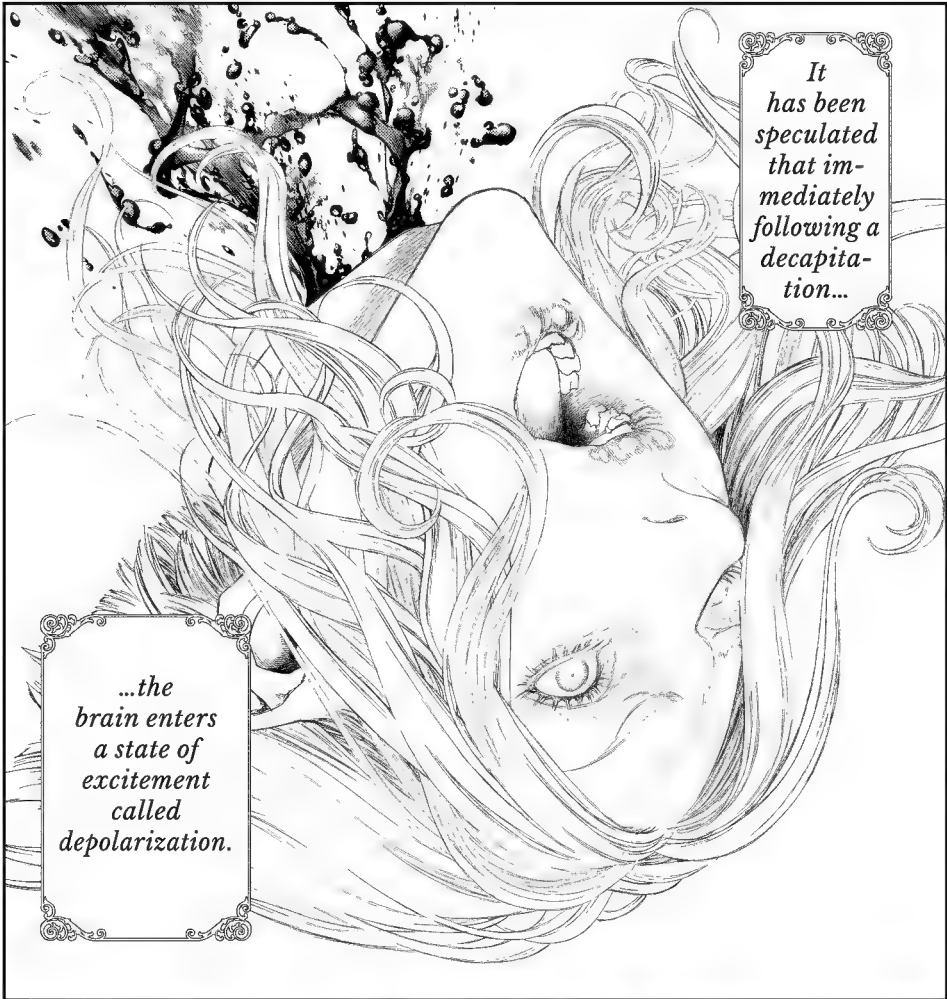








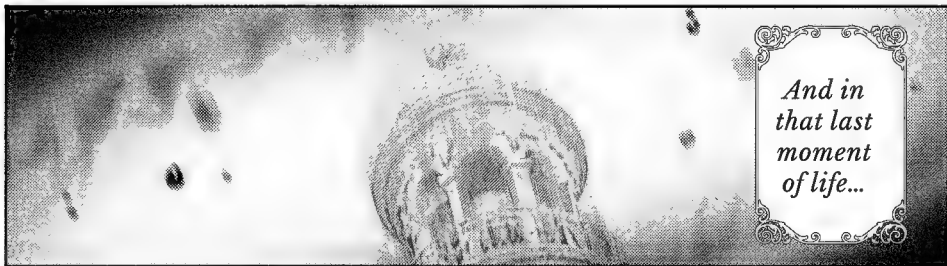
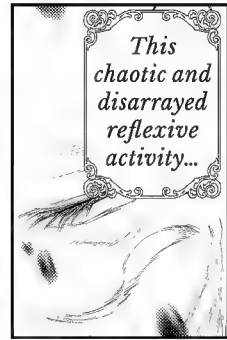
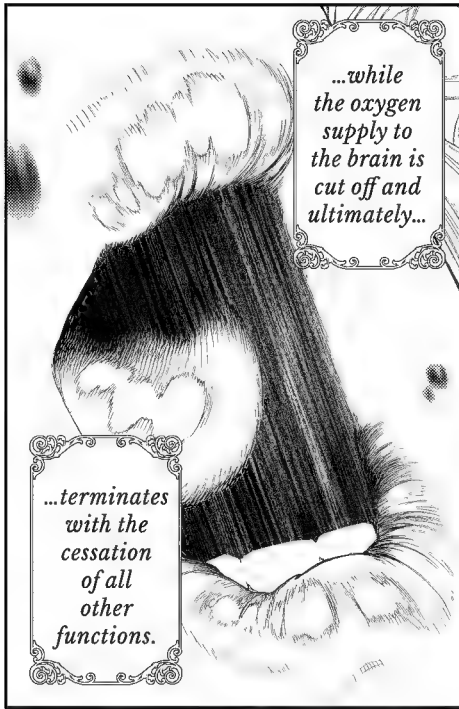






n° 61 An Adieu That Overflows with Love

*BACKGROUND: COLD, PAIN, PAINFUL, AGONY, SHIVER, HOT, BURNING.



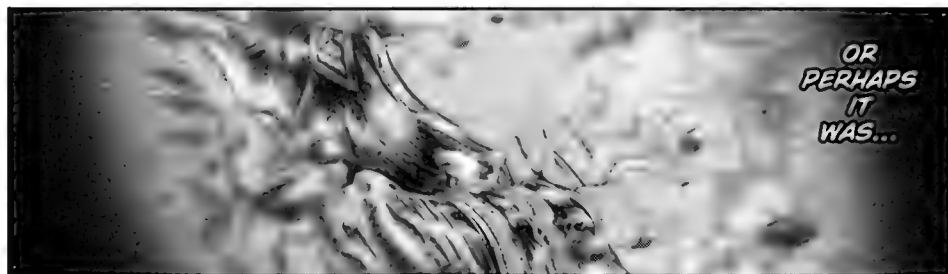


I'LL SAY
JE T'AIME
THOUSANDS
OF
TIMES.

ADIEU,
MONSIEUR.



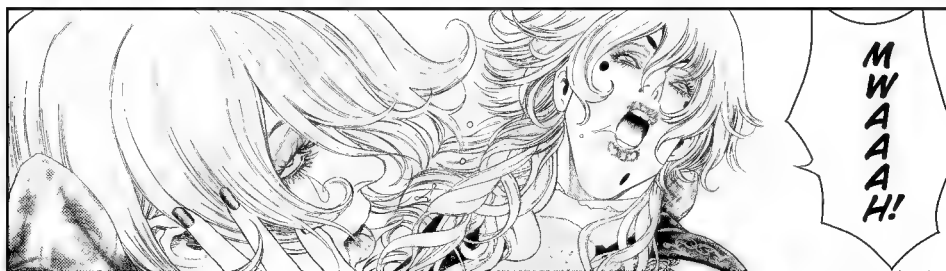
WAS
IT THE
DESPAIR
OF THE
DEFEATED?



OR
PERHAPS
IT
WAS...



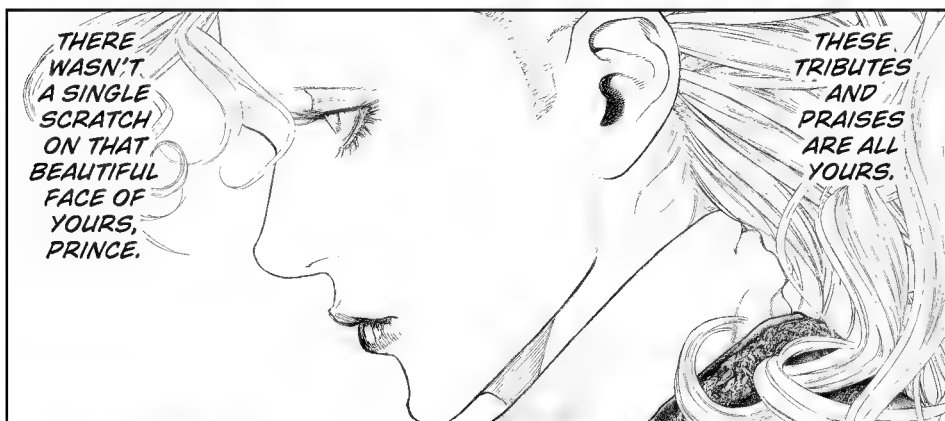
... Je t'aime.

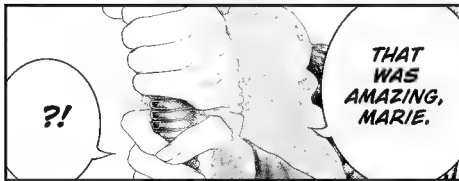
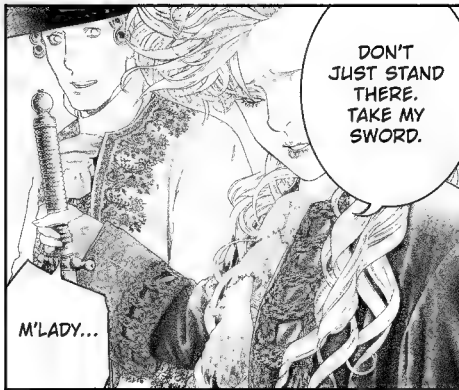


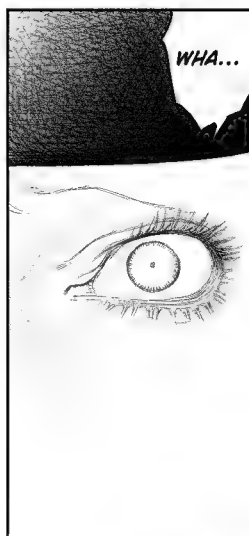
*PATRON SAINT OF FRANCE. IN THE THIRD CENTURY, HE WAS BEHEADED, AND THEN WALKED AROUND CARRYING HIS HEAD, ALL THE WHILE CONTINUING TO PREACH.







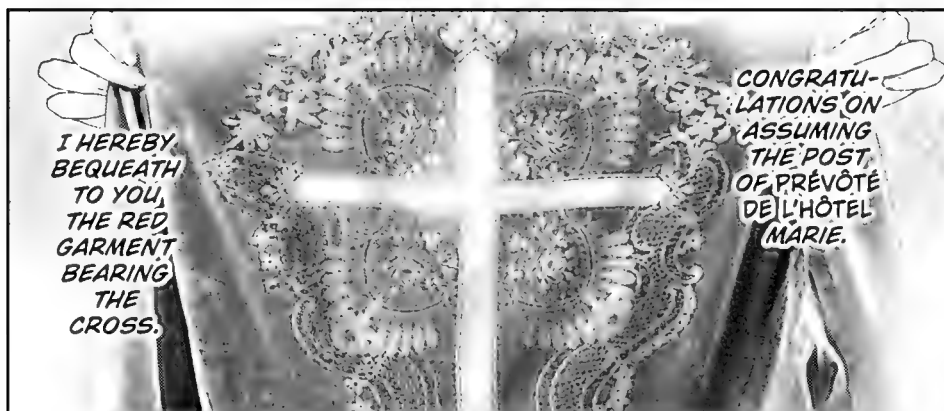






**MARIE
HAS NO
NEED
FOR
GOD.**

**THE ONLY
PATH THAT I
BELIEVE IN IS
THE CRIMSON
PATH OF
DESTINY,
ENGRAVED
HERE
UPON MY
CHEST!**



I HEREBY,
BEQUEATH
TO YOU,
THE RED
GARMENT
BEARING
THE
CROSS.

CONGRATU-
LATIONS ON
ASSUMING
THE POST
OF PRÉVÔTE
DE L'HÔTEL
MARIE.



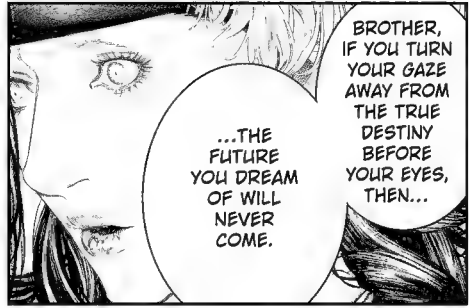
PETITE MARIE,
YOUR BIG
BROTHER
WILL ALWAYS
BE BY YOUR
SIDE, YOUR
ALLY.

AND
I SHALL
CHASE
OFF ANY
MISFORTUNE
AND WOE
THAT WOULD
BEFALL
YOU.



THOUGH
YOU
ARE A
WOMAN...

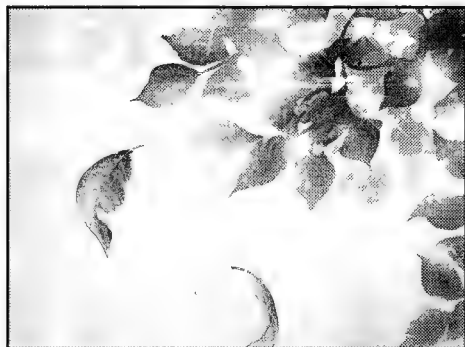
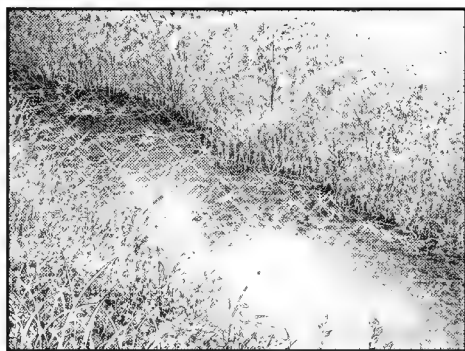
...NO ONE
WOULD
DOUBT YOU,
WERE YOU
TO WEAR
THIS AS
YOU STOOD
ATOP THE
PLATFORM.

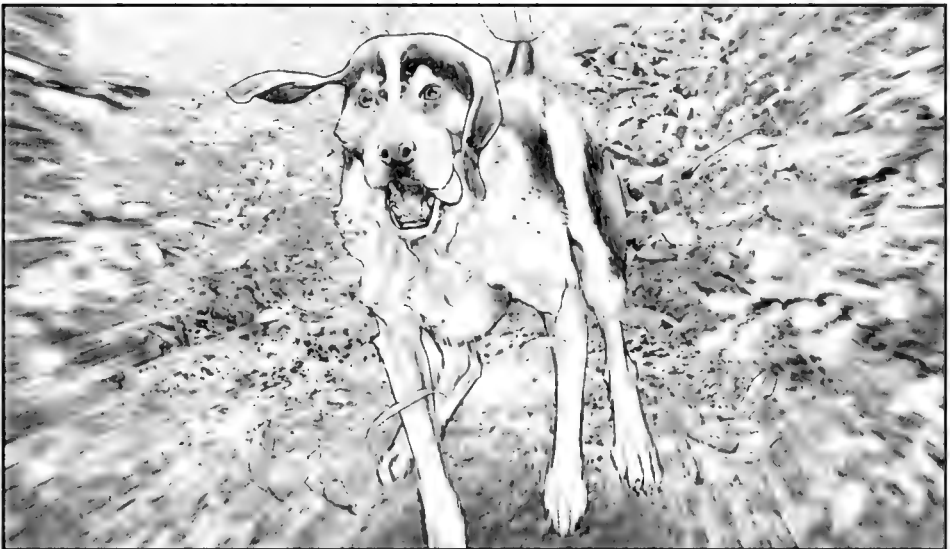


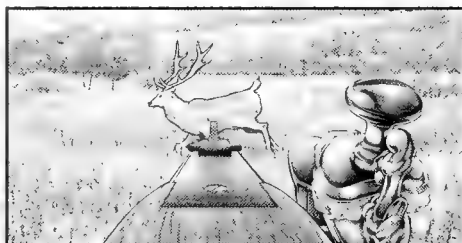
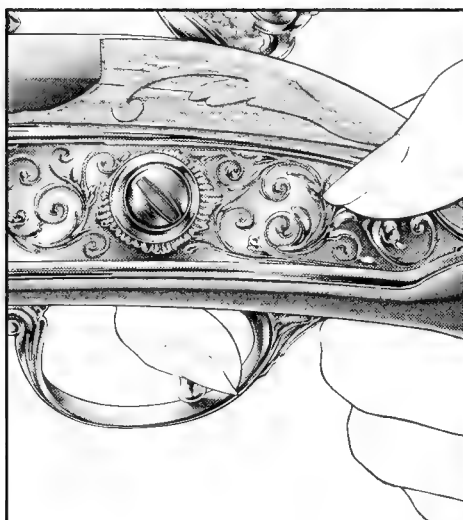
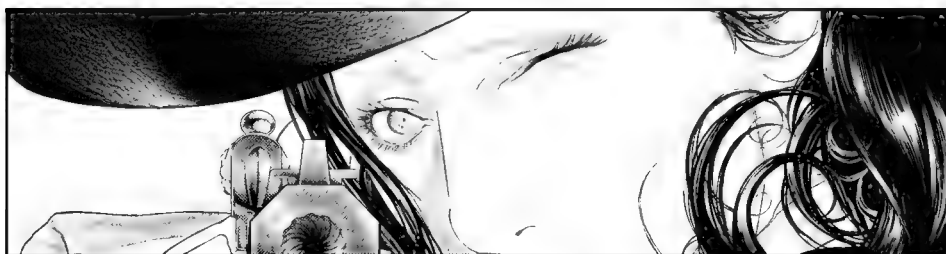
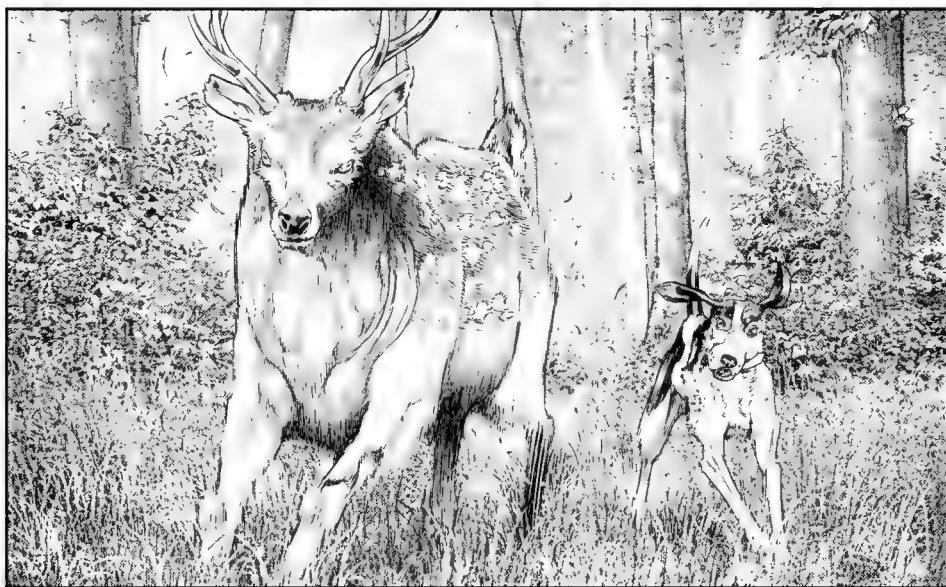


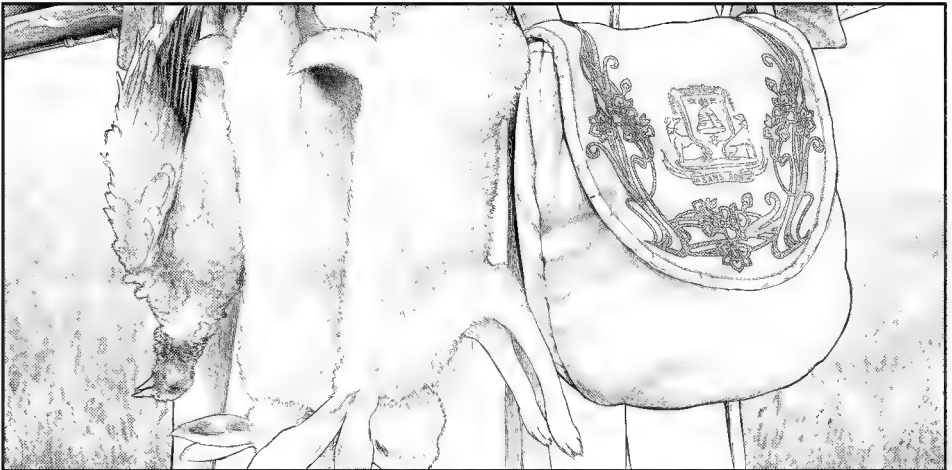
One year later

The Forest of Sénart









n°62 A Verdant Encounter

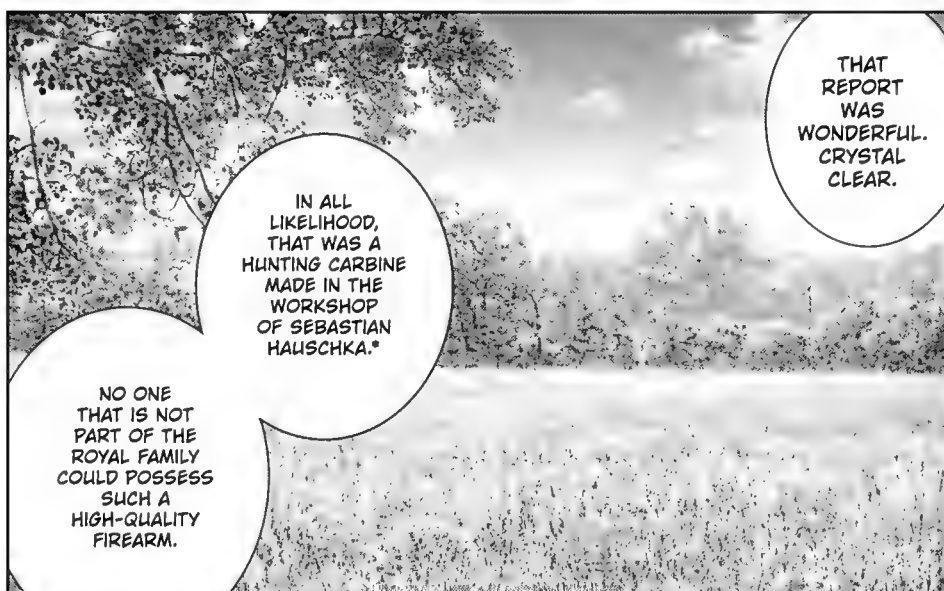




**A UNIT OF WEIGHT. ONE TALENT EQUALS 34 KILOGRAMS.*







**JOHANN SEBASTIAN HAUSCHKA. THE GREATEST GUNSMITH OF THE ERA. HE MADE GUNS FOR ROYAL FAMILIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE.*



EDEN,
LET'S
GO!

=YIP=



HEY,
CHARLES,
WAIT!



CHARLES,
I THINK
WE OUGHT
TO HEAD
BACK
BEFORE
LONG.

IT WOULD
SEEM THAT
MEMBERS OF
THE ROYAL FAMILY
ARE ENJOYING
A RATHER GRAND
HUNTING PARTY
TODAY, SOMEWHERE
NOT TOO FAR
FROM HERE.

IT
MIGHT PROVE
TO BE QUITE
A NUISANCE
WERE WE TO
ACCIDENTALLY
CROSS PATHS
WITH THEM.



I HAVE
TO GET ONE
PHEASANT
WHILE I'M
OUT
HERE.

ONCE
I DO, I'LL
HEAD BACK
IMMEDIATELY.
SO PLEASE,
JUST WAIT
HERE FOR
ME.

CHESNEAU,
I WANT
TO GET
A BIRD.



HE ALWAYS
SEEMED SO
DOWNCAST AND
LACKING IN
CONFIDENCE.
I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D SEE CHARLES
ENJOY HUNTING
WITH SUCH
VIGOR.

WHAT
TO DO,
WHAT
TO
DO...



...CHARLES!

YOU'VE
BECOME
QUITE
THE
MAN...



I'D LIKE TO
GET THE
PHEASANT
WITH THE
MOST
BEAUTIFUL
TAIL
FEATHERS.

YES,
SOMETHING
A LADY MIGHT
ADORN HER
HAIR WITH,
GIVING HER AN
ASTONISHING
BEAUTY
SURPASSING
THAT OF ANY
OTHER.



CHARLES,
PLEASE RETURN
ONCE THE
SUN BEGINS
TO TOUCH
THE
HORIZON!

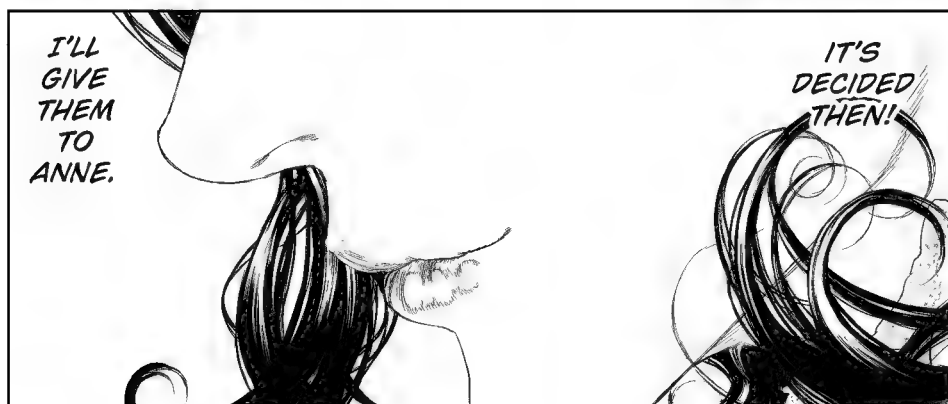






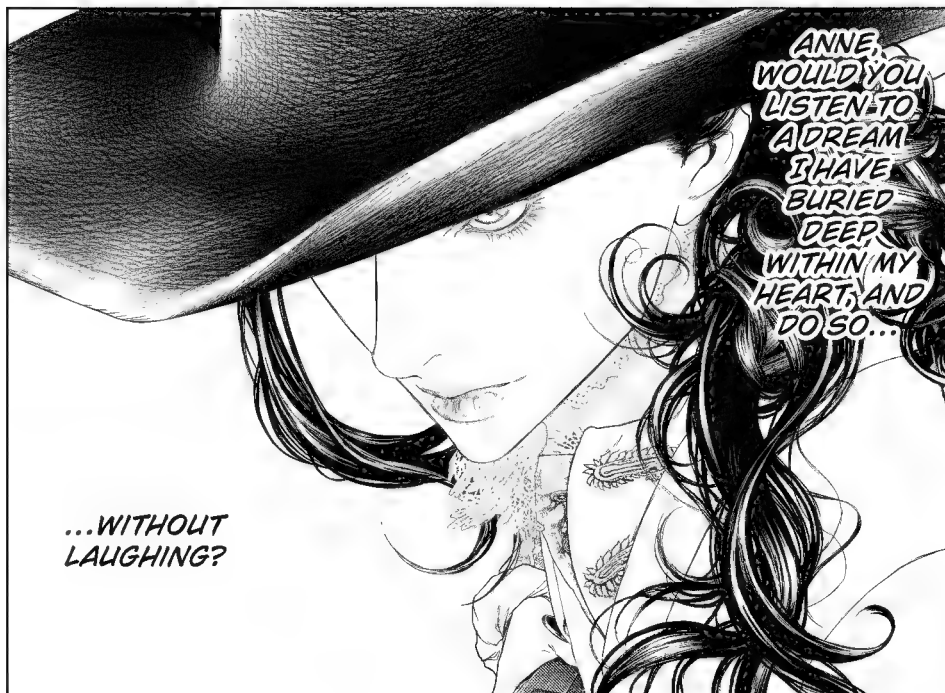
THE
THOUGHT OF
WEARING THESE
IN MY HAIR,
DAMAGED FROM
BEING OUT IN
THE FIELDS
UNDER THE
SUN ALL
DAY...

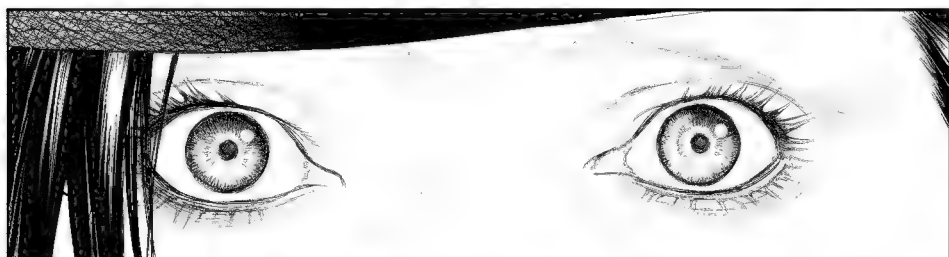
...BRINGS
FEELINGS OF
GUILT FOR
BESMIRCHING
THE BEAUTY
OF THIS
BIRD'S
FEATHERS.

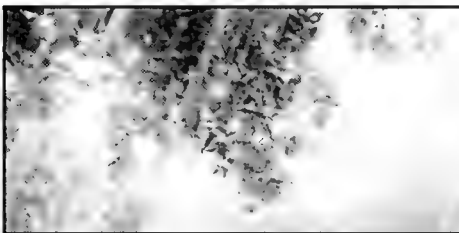
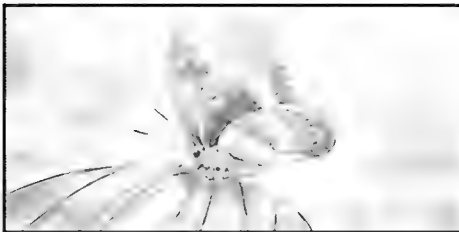
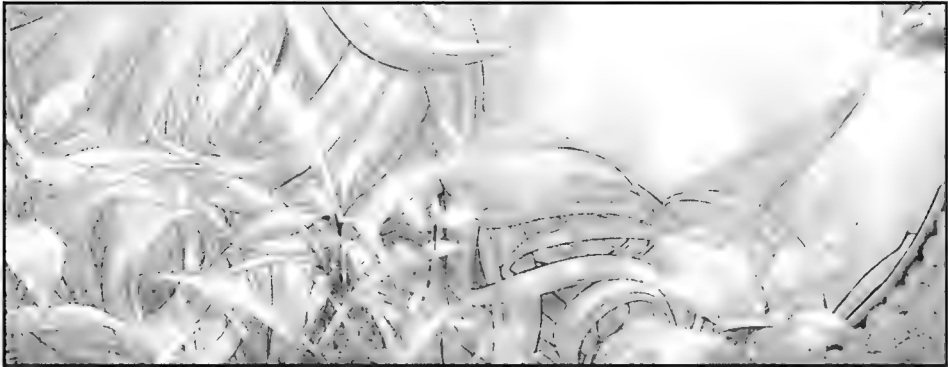


I'LL
GIVE
THEM
TO
ANNE.

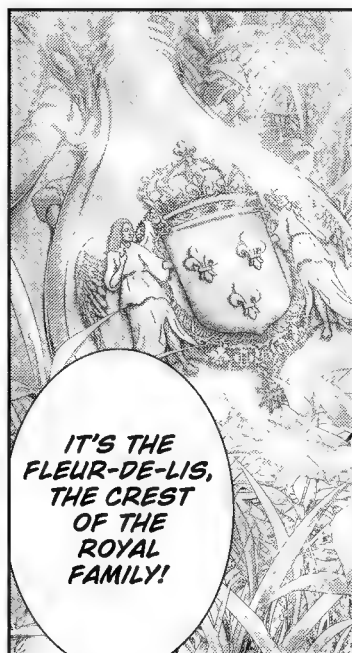
IT'S
DECIDED
THEN!









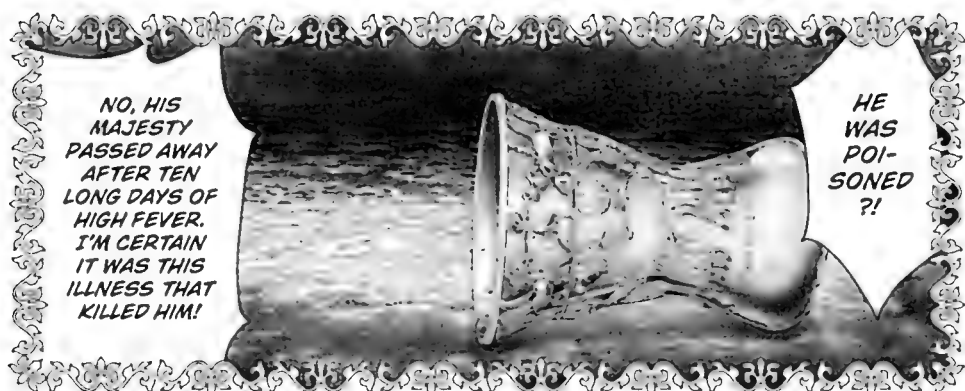




**HIS
MAJESTY
HAS
PASSED
FROM
THIS
EARTH!**

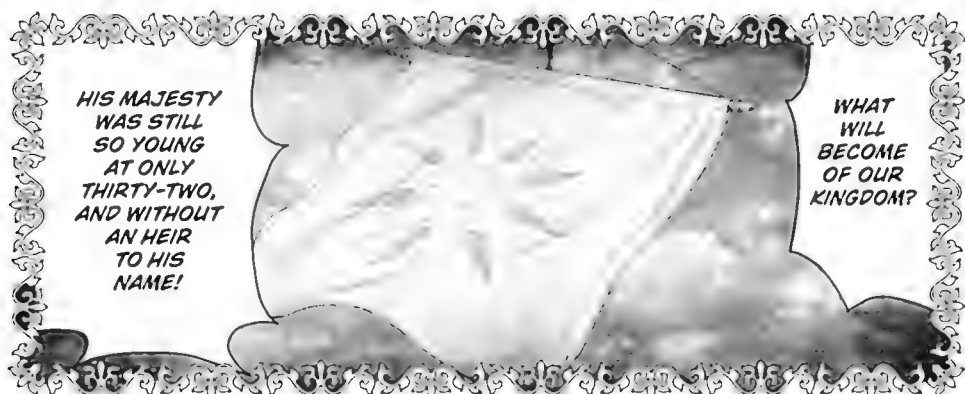
**OH,
HIS
MAJES-
TY...**

**323 B.C.
June 11
Ancient Babylonia**



**NO, HIS
MAJESTY
PASSED AWAY
AFTER TEN
LONG DAYS OF
HIGH FEVER.
I'M CERTAIN
IT WAS THIS
ILLNESS THAT
KILLED HIM!**

**HE
WAS
POI-
SONED
?!**



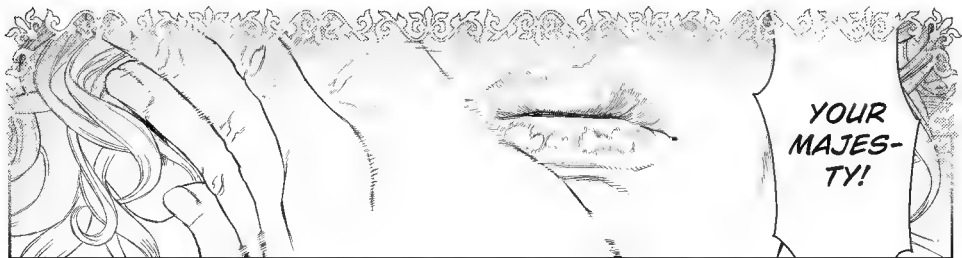
**HIS MAJESTY
WAS STILL
SO YOUNG
AT ONLY
THIRTY-TWO,
AND WITHOUT
AN HEIR
TO HIS
NAME!**

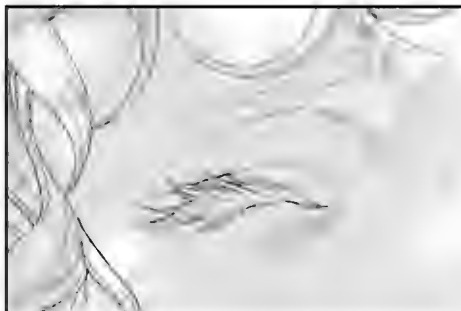
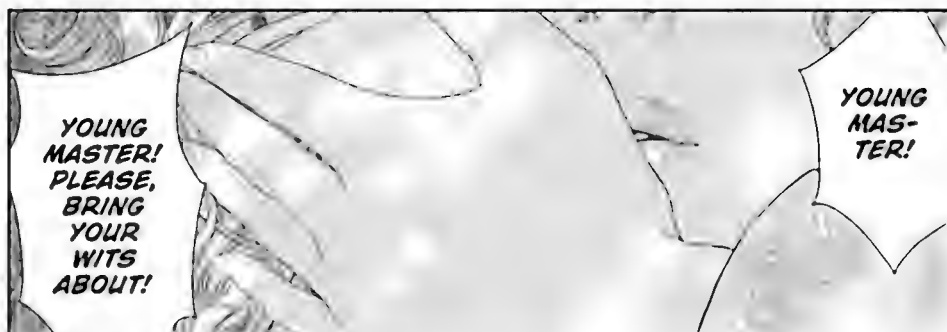
**WHAT
WILL
BECOME
OF OUR
KINGDOM?**

n°63 Death Worship

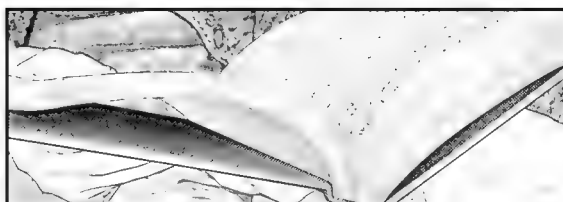
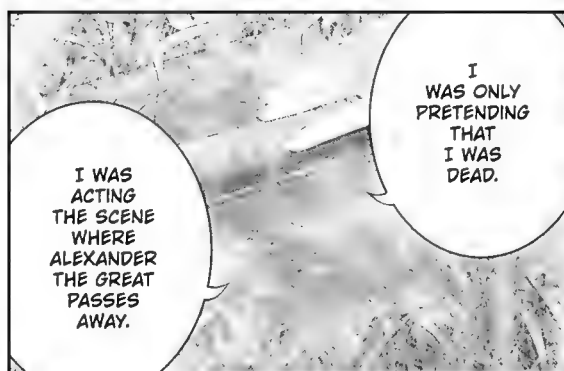
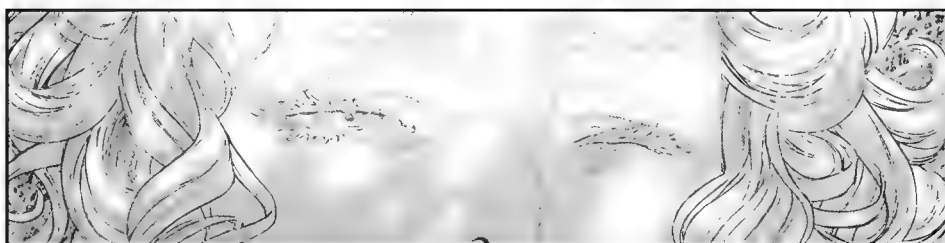
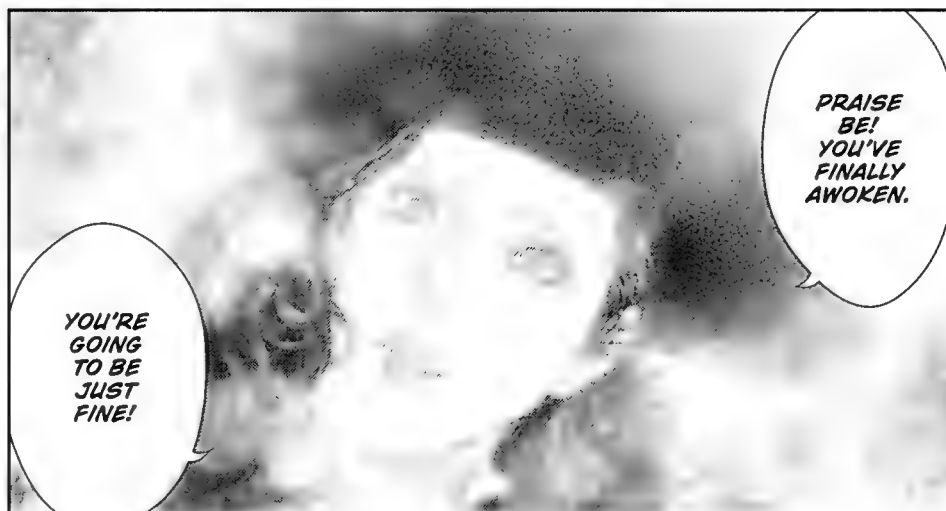
**HIS
MAJESTY,
ALEXANDER
THE GREAT,
HAS MET
WITH HIS
DEMISE!**

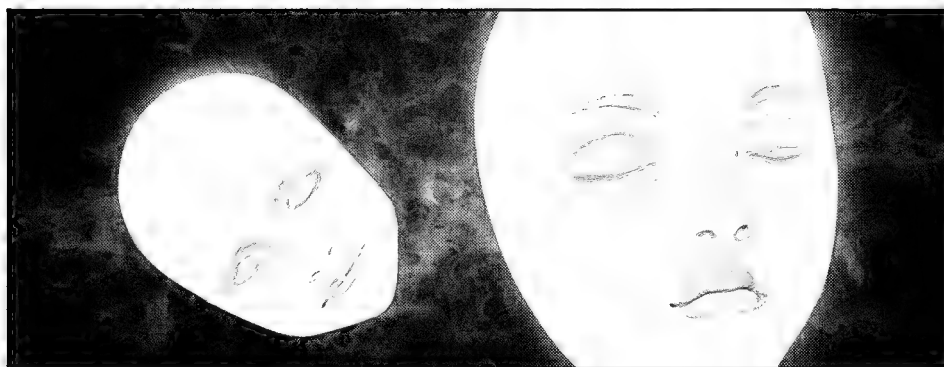
**THE GREAT
MACEDONIAN KING,
WHO NEVER
ONCE KNEW
THE BITTERNESS
OF DEFEAT IN
HIS LIFE, AND
WHO CONQUERED
EVERY END OF
THE EARTH, HAS
PERISHED!**

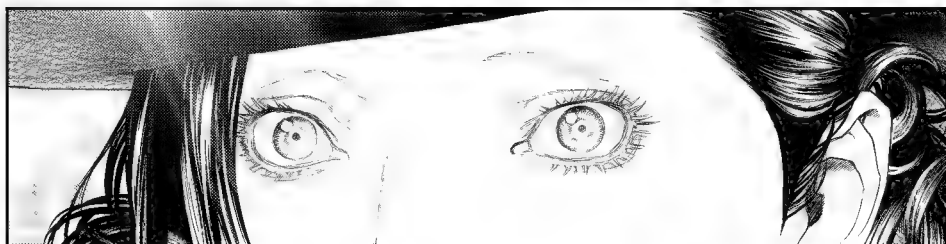


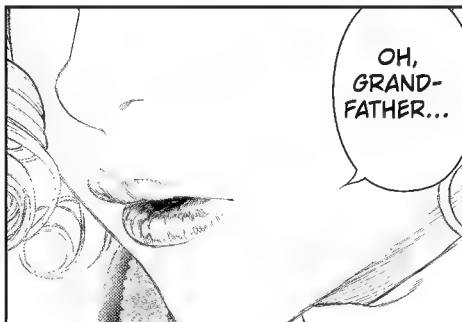
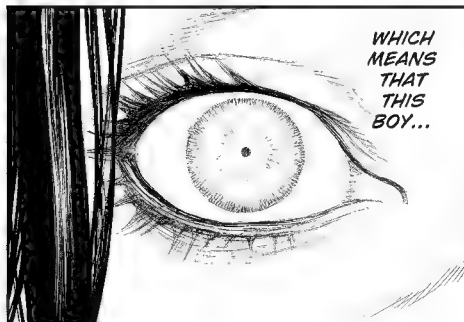
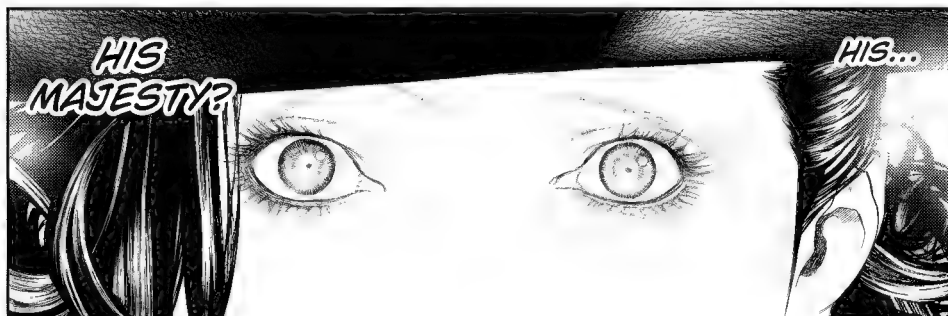
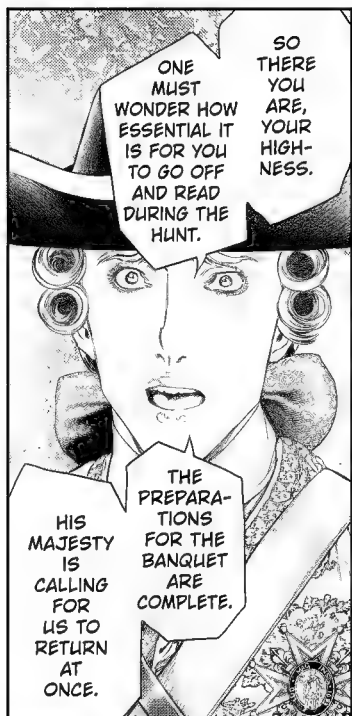












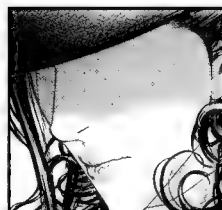
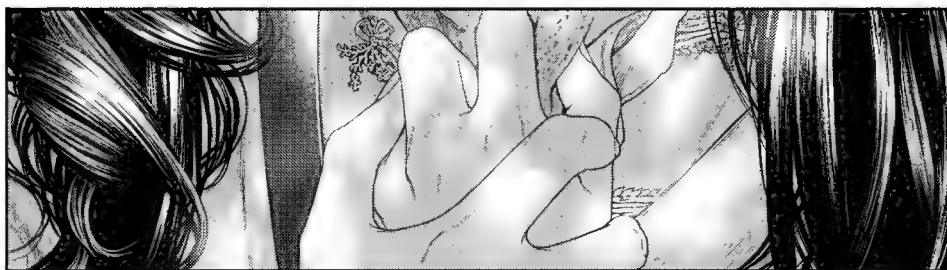


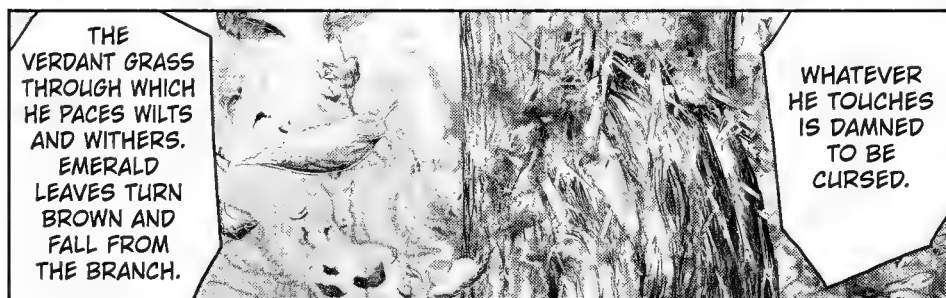
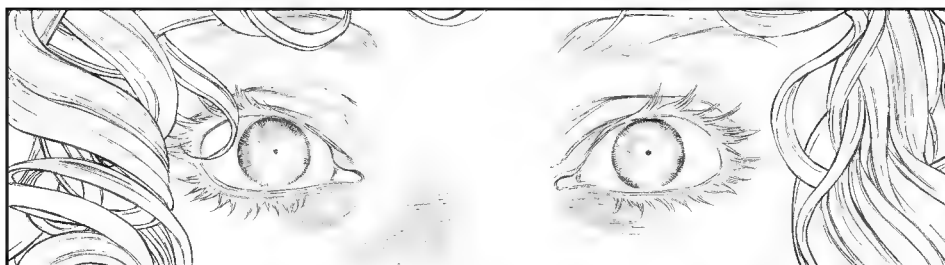
IF ONLY
DEATH
WOULD
COME AS
SOON AS IT
COULD.

**DUKE OF BERRY
LOUIS-AUGUSTE
DE FRANCE**

*Later, Louis XVI,
king of France.*

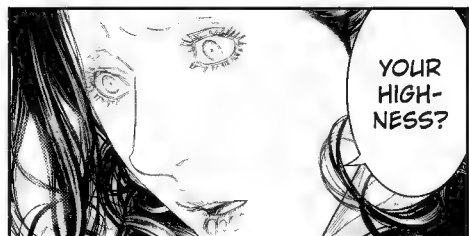
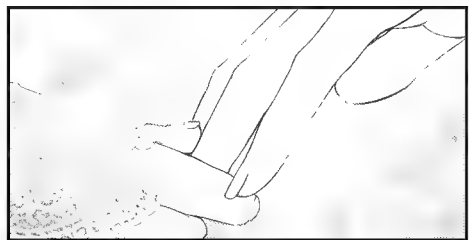
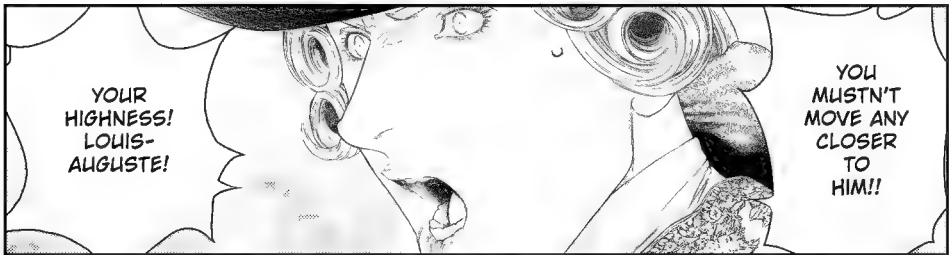
*Grandson of Louis XV, and
at this time, second in line of
succession to the throne.*









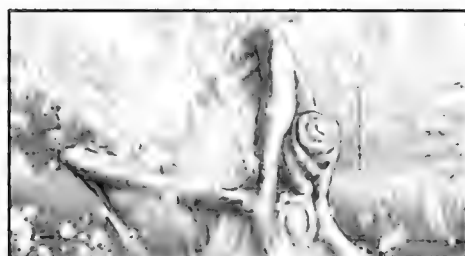
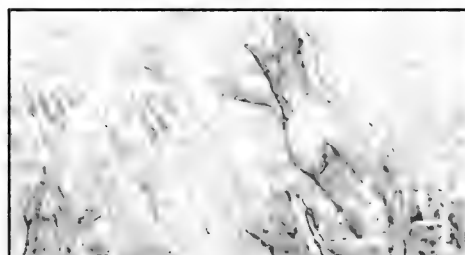




n°64 An Invitation to the Palace of Versailles



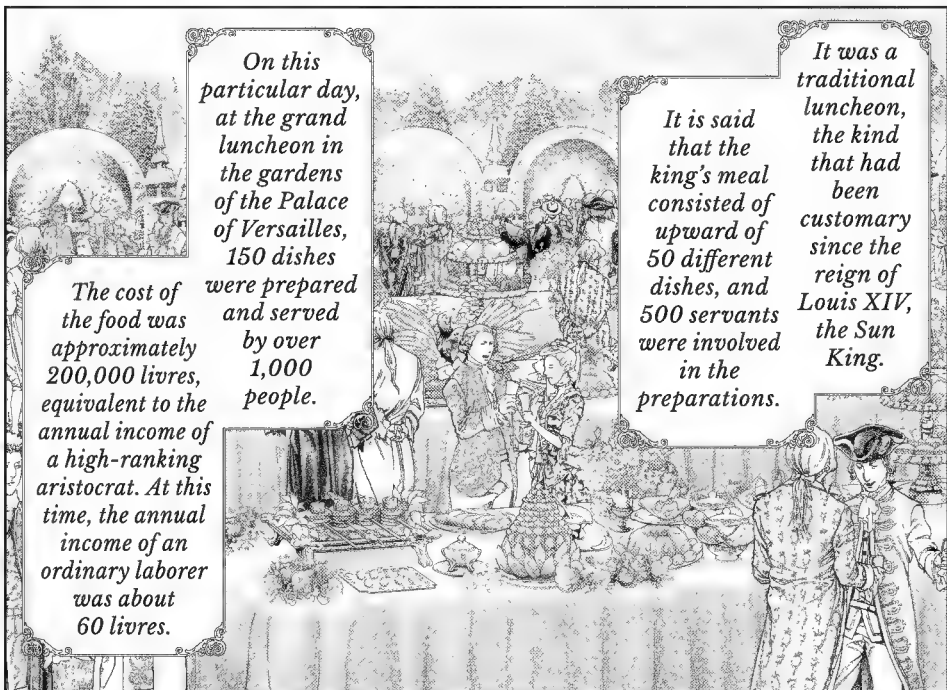
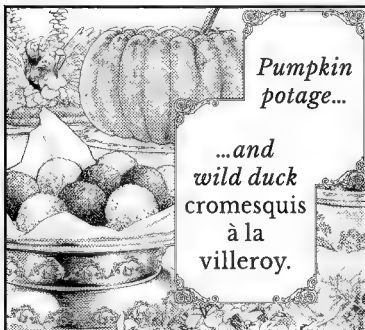
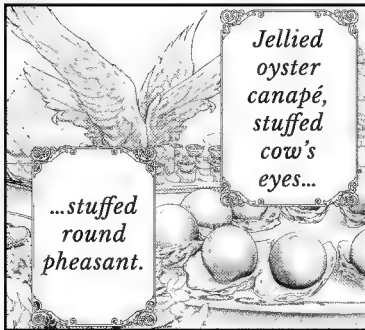


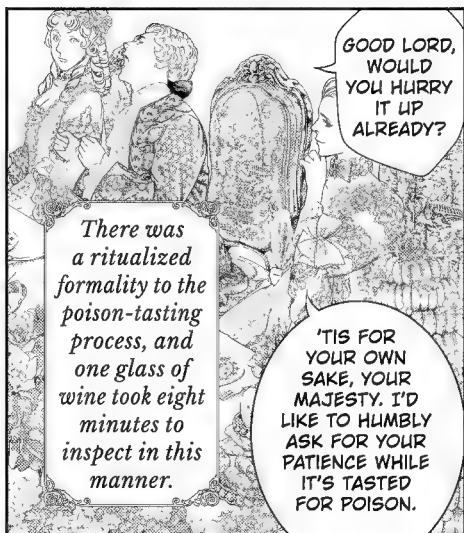
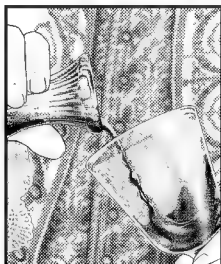
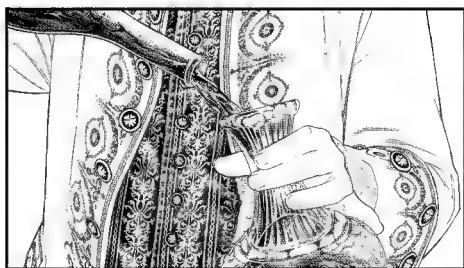


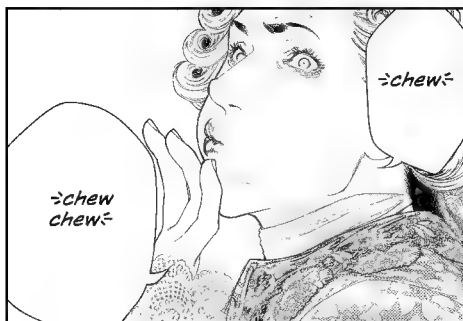
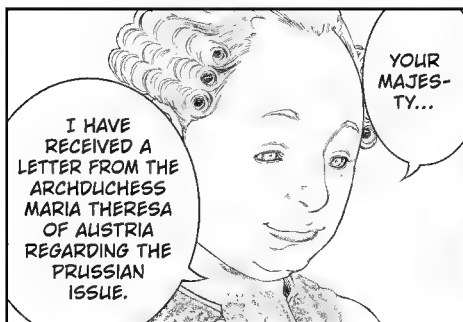




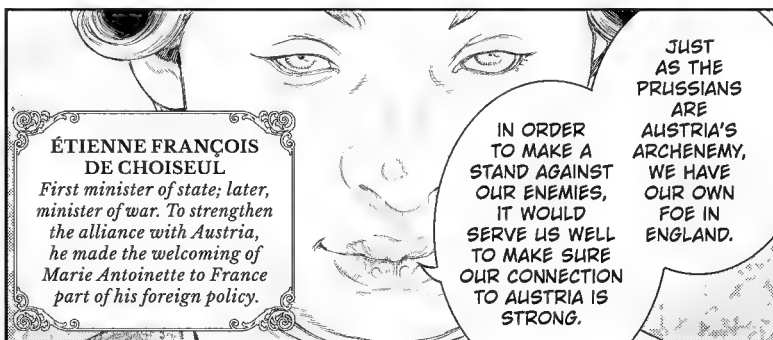
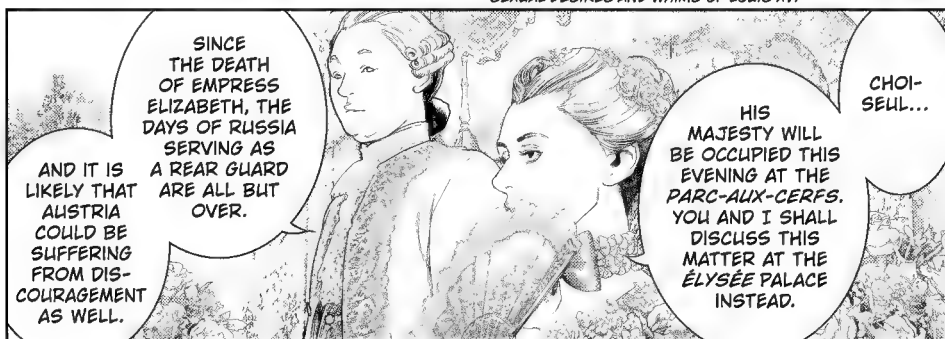


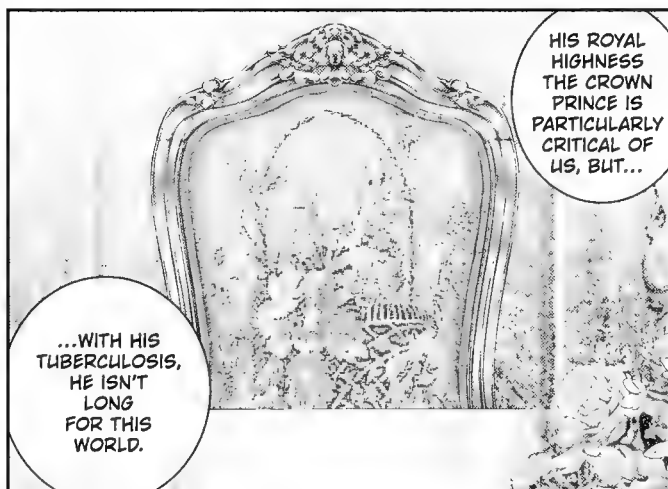






*A HOUSE CREATED TO CATER TO, AND FULLY SATISFY, THE SEXUAL DESIRES AND WHIMS OF LOUIS XV.





HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS
THE CROWN
PRINCE IS
PARTICULARLY
CRITICAL OF
US, BUT...

...WITH HIS
TUBERCULOSIS,
HE ISN'T
LONG
FOR THIS
WORLD.



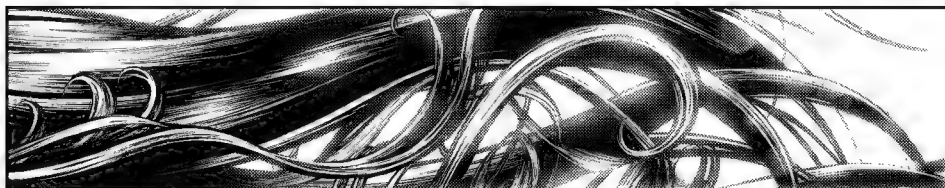
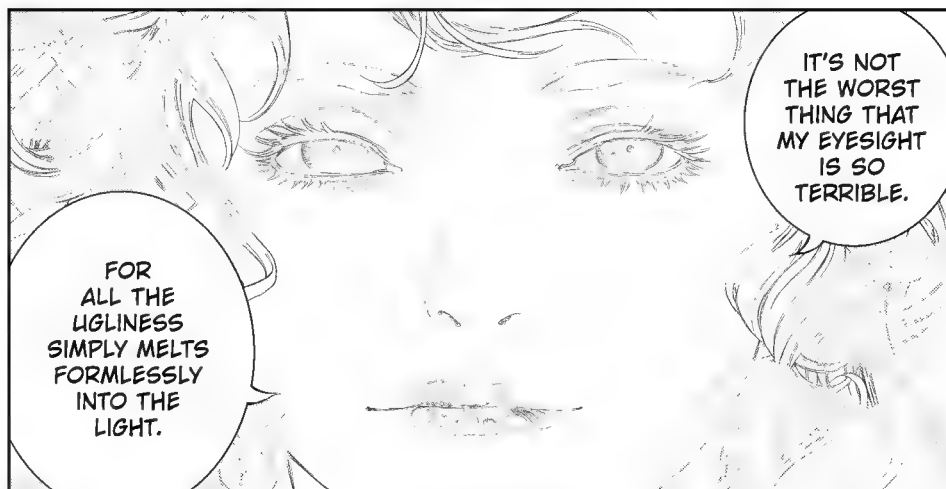
AND
THE ONLY
ONE LEFT
WILL BE THAT
DOLTISH
CHILD,
SO...

...MANIPULAT-
ING HIM TO
DO OUR
BIDDING
SHOULDN'T
BE
DIFFICULT.

ARRANGING
FOR HIM TO
MARRY AN
AUSTRIAN
PRINCESS
SHOULD JUST
ABOUT DO
THE JOB.

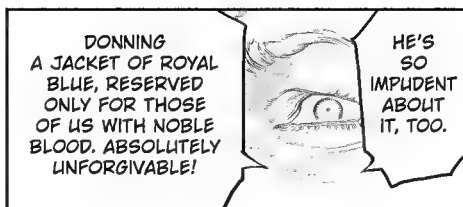


I
WANT
TO
DIE...

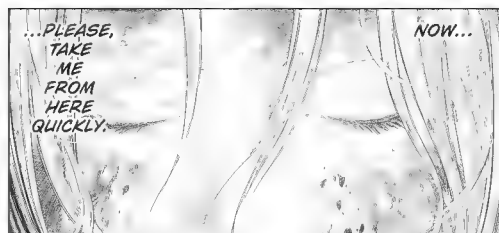












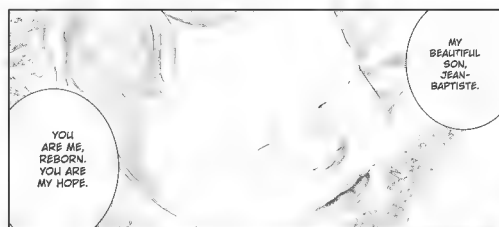
INNOCENT

～ イ ノ サ ン ～

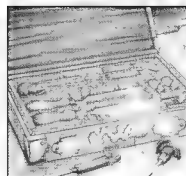
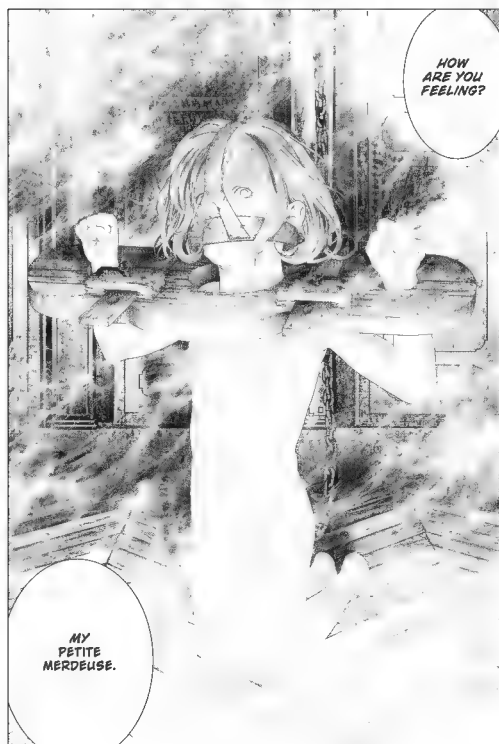
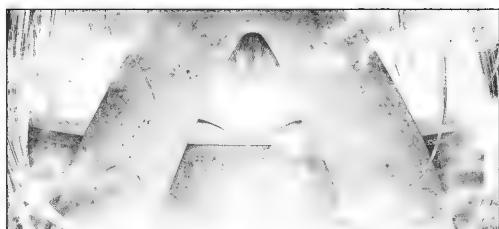
In panel 2, in Damiens's final words, some of the characters are mirrored. Not entire sentences, just pieces, as if he's already been taken to another plane of existence—or, more likely, is looking at himself.

This is referring to the ballet *Scaramouche*, and the line on the page could probably read "Scaramouche," but what is literally written is "the dance of Scaramouche" or "Scaramouche's dance."

In panel 1, Anne-Marthe uses the term which generally, in this case, could mean "my child"; however, it's also used for an alter ego or one's double—like a kind of homunculus.



n°40 The Child Femme Fatale



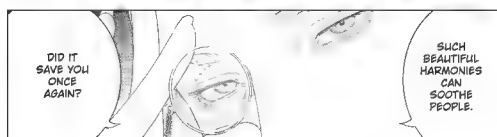
IT SOUNDS
LIKE THIS
MOST RECENT
EXECUTION
WAS
PROFOUNDLY
TRYING.



...I'M
QUITE SURE
THAT YOU
PLAYED
THAT SONG
FOLLOWING
THE
EXECUTION.

WHILE
JOHANN
SEBASTIAN BACH
IS BUT A
LITTLE-KNOWN
COMPOSER...

DID YOU
PLAY THAT
SONG AGAIN
THAT I
HAPPENED
UPON FROM
PRUSSIA?



DID IT
SAVE YOU
ONCE
AGAIN?

SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
HARMONIES
CAN
SOOTHE
PEOPLE.

In panel 5, the term used by Julius Schmidt can mean “soothe” or “heal.” People often use this in regard to charming people that they like to be around, someone who would calm you or allow you to let down your guard.

In the chapter 40 title, the kanji itself means “fate” or “destiny.” The *furigana* reads “femme fatale.”

The kanji used here can mean “daughter” but is often used to denote a young girl. The *furigana* reads *petite merdeuse*, which is sort of like “little scoundrel.” *Merdeux* is the masculine form; *merdeuse*, the feminine form.

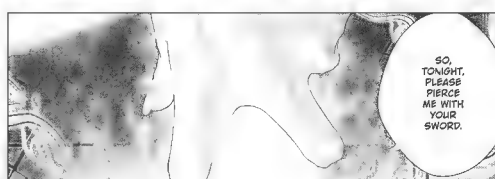
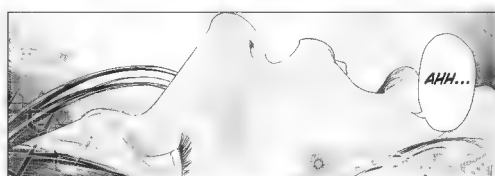
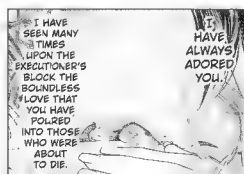
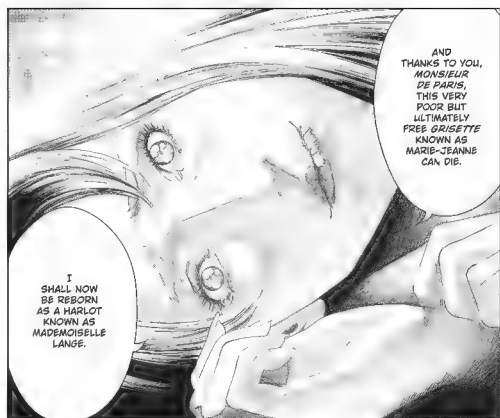


From a technical standpoint, the scold's bridle (known as the gossip's bridle, as well) wasn't a torture device; there wasn't a lot of pain involved. The device did hold the tongue down, but it was an instrument of shame rather than physical torture.

In the chapter 41 title, the term used is the Japanese word for the book of Genesis in the Bible, not the more general meaning of *genesis*.

In panel 3, the "monkey show" being referenced is *sarushibai*. It's someone using monkeys to play to the audience, which is what Marie-Joseph accuses Baptiste of doing here—commanding and using his servants and guards to play up how supposedly great Griffin was.





It should be mentioned that Marie-Jeanne is speaking very honorifically throughout this scene, using speech that exalts Charles-Henri both as a person and in his station as an executioner.

In panel 1, Marie-Jeanne refers to herself as a *grisette*, which is indeed often used to describe a young working-class woman but also one that is coquettish or of loose morals.

In panel 3, Andre speaks of the female hawks, as they are more territorial than male hawks and hunt larger game—rabbits, squirrels—while males hunt mice and smaller game.

A CHECKERED HISTORY

~ The Era of the Sanson Executioners ~

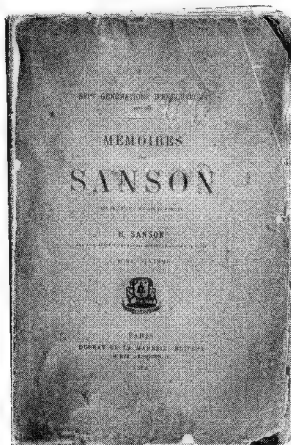
Charles-Henri Sanson lived during the historic upheaval of the French Revolution. He was the fourth generation in a family that served as the executioners of Paris. In an absolute monarchy where the king was above all else, Charles-Henri Sanson was responsible for carrying out the ultimate form of punishment—the death penalty. To know the story of House Sanson is to know the true backstory of the French Revolution. Let us now look back at this and explore the place of the Sanson family within their historical context.

CHAPTER 1

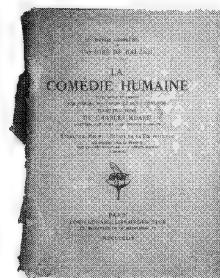
What exactly is the role of the head executioner of all of France, the *Monsieur de Paris*?

The sources for the depiction of the Sanson family in Shin'ichi Sakamoto's *Innocent* are the book *Memoirs of the Sansons* and an interview with Masakatsu Adachi, author of *The Executioner Sanson*.

“The humanitarian who moonlighted as a physician while serving as the royally appointed executioner.”



Mémoires des Sanson (*Memoirs of the Sansons*), written by Henri-Clément Sanson, of the sixth generation of the Sanson family, was based upon the personal memoirs of the previous heads of House Sanson. The depictions in *Innocent* of the Sanson executioners are based most heavily on this work.



Honoré de Balzac, one of the leading French writers of the nineteenth century, was a close friend of the Sanson family. *La comédie humaine* (*The Human Comedy*) includes episodes from his interviews with the Sansons.

Before the French Revolution, during a period which would later come to be known as the *ancien régime*, the world was governed by a class system which supported an absolute monarchy, and the direction one's life would take was predestined by lineage and birth. Charles-Henri Sanson was born into the fourth generation of the Sanson family, and they were executioners by trade. Their memoirs touch on what could be considered the true face of the Sanson family by examining the events of their daily lives.

The shadowy protagonist of the Revolution. Who exactly was the fourth head of the Sanson family?

Historically, Paris, like many other European cities, had hereditary executioners; the Parisian post of executioner was called the *Monsieur de Paris*. The book *The Executioner Sanson* (published in Japan by Shueisha Shinsho) describes the life of the fourth head of the Sanson family, Charles-Henri Sanson. The Sanson family served as the *Monsieur de Paris* for six generations.

But who actually remembers the names of executioners? Charles-Henri, like the majority of other executioners throughout human history, should have been all but forgotten. But during the French Revolution, he was the *Monsieur de Paris* who executed the likes of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. While the previous heads of House Sanson had no choice but to live quietly on the fringes of society, Charles-Henri danced on the stage of world history and often found himself treated like a star. Let's take a look and trace our way through this most strange of fates.



The Grave of Charles-Henri Sanson

The tomb of the Sanson family in Montmartre Cemetery in Paris. Even now, visitors to the grave leave flowers placed upon it.



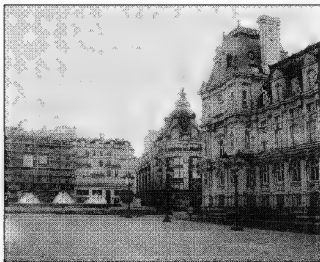
**Portrait of Charles-Henri Sanson,
Created from Imagination**

Few portraits of Charles remain. This particular portrait was done by a painter in the early twentieth century and is included in *The Human Comedy*.

The Sanson Family's Way of Life

The *Monsieur de Paris* was the head of all executioners throughout France. The Sanson family, which inherited the duties of this office, was quite wealthy through the time of Jean-Baptiste, the third-generation head of House Sanson. The profession of executioner, which was appointed directly by the king, allowed the family to amass significant wealth, and through their second generation, they'd had the privilege of collecting the taxes of market merchants. Even after this particular privilege was eliminated, the family still had a considerably high salary of sixteen thousand livres paid by the government and enjoyed privileges of tax exemption.

Several generations of the Sanson family also practiced medicine in parallel to their main occupation. So, ironically, the people whose profession it was to bring death also worked hard to find ways to prolong life. This may seem odd when one first hears of it, but as they carried out various types of executions, they had to become intimately familiar with the physiological functions of the human body and its anatomy—for example, knowing where to strike in the event of a beheading and what the most susceptible and acute points were. When there was no next of kin or other party to take the corpse following an execution, the care of the deceased's body was left to the executioner until the burial. And, by dissecting the corpse, the executioner was able to gain familiarity with the structure and mechanisms of the human body. They even had a dedicated autopsy and dissection room. The knowledge gained by the successive heads of the family through these dissections was documented in detail and passed along to the next generation. The family

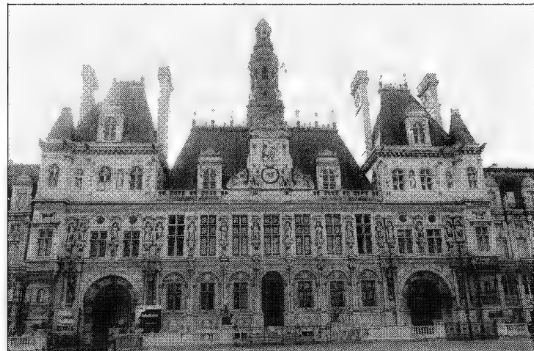


Place de Grève

The condemned were transported by horse-drawn carriages from the prison, the Conciergerie, on the opposite side of this square, where they were ultimately executed. The square and the surrounding buildings would be filled with spectators who came to watch the execution.

Paris City Hall

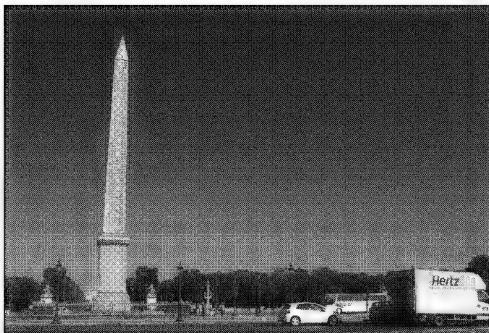
This opulent neo-Renaissance building is located in the heart of Paris. The *Place de Grève* in front of the building is where executions had occurred since the Middle Ages. Today, it's a tourism landmark in Paris.



used these clinical medical skills to heal sickness and injuries that other doctors either refused or were unable to treat, and from the very first generation, the Sansons had a good reputation as physicians. They were paid handsomely by the affluent but never received a penny from the poor. The medical business was a great source of income, but it was also a great source of spiritual salvation for the heads of the Sanson family. Even though it was their official duty and they tried to convince themselves that they did it for the good of the world, the Sansons could not help but feel an inner aversion to killing (not to mention a natural human guilt). Saving lives through medical practice was an irreplaceable source of comfort.

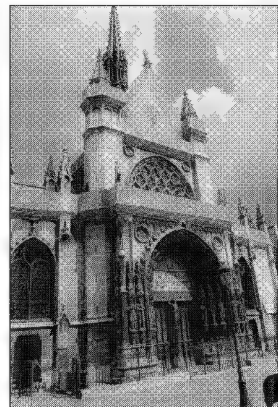
By the third generation of the Sanson family, the combined income from the medical moonlighting and the salary paid by the government was seventy thousand livres a year. It was quite the remuneration indeed—an annual income equal to over one hundred times that of a male factory worker. However, there were also many mouths to feed: over thirty assistants, workers, and other employees, as well as customers of relatives. As the head executioner of all of France, the *Monsieur de Paris* also took in the sons of the executioners from different provinces, who would come to live with and train under them.

Nevertheless, their standard of living was on par with that of the aristocracy. After the death of the third head of household, Jean-Baptiste, in 1778, Charles-Henri had no choice but to give up his ancestral land for the division of his estate, but the developers who purchased it decided it was too large to sell—and ended up building two new roads, one 110 meters long and the other 60 meters long, that ran through the property. Not unlike their aristocratic counterparts, the Sansons often spent their leisure time hunting.



Louis XV Square (*Place de la Concorde*)

This square was called the *Place de la Révolution* during the revolution, and both King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed here.



Saint-Laurent Church

This was the family temple of the Sansons for generations. The third-generation head of the house, Jean-Baptiste, worshiped in this church, as did his son Charles.

The Education of Charles-Henri Sanson

Long before education was compulsory, the majority of the population had never been to school, and two-thirds were unable to even write their own names. In contrast to that, the Sansons had an education level comparable to that of the aristocracy, and it was their tradition to give the best possible education to their children. This was not merely for the sake of social appearances and conventions: given their principal and secondary occupations, the Sansons were inextricably connected to both the courts and medicine, so they needed to be able to read not only legal texts but also anatomy books at an intellectual level that, if not attained, would have caused difficulty with their work later in life.

But when Charles-Henri reached school age, his parents had difficulty finding the right school for him. Given the Sansons' reputation, he could not attend school in Paris, where the family was well known, so Charles-Henri went to a school in Rouen, a large city in Normandy. During his second year there, he was forced to leave the school due to complaints from the parents of other students. Charles was left with no choice but to return to Paris. This made him quite sad. "Many children study only reluctantly because they're forced to; I would love to be able to study. However, I cannot find someone to teach me."

When the family had almost given up on educating Charles-Henri, a tutor appeared in an unexpected place. A neighbor inquired of the Sansons if they might be able to help someone, a priest who was sick and dying. The priest, named Grisel, recovered from an illness that would otherwise have been a death sentence



The House of the First Sanson

The first Sanson, a soldier, fell in love with an executioner's daughter and would become an executioner himself. In Paris, he first lived in what was called the Executioner's House, near the central market square.



The Sanson Family Coat of Arms

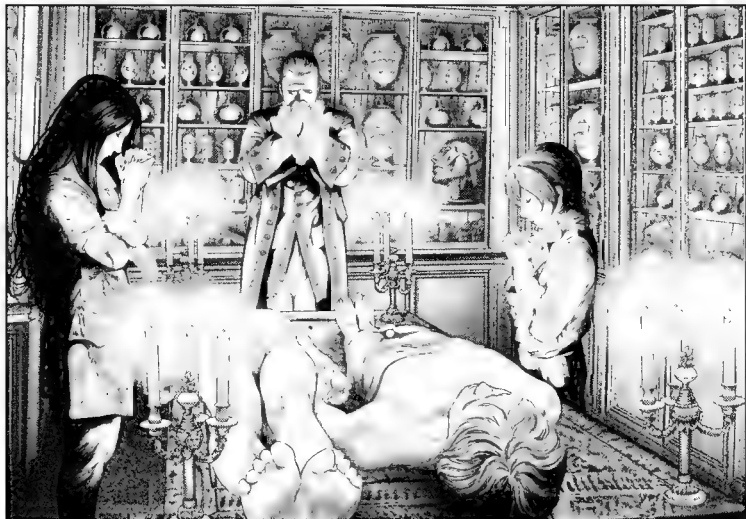
The motif of the Sanson family coat of arms is a broken bell, corresponding to the French words *sans* (without) and *son* (sound). Since all the heads of House Sanson hunted as a hobby and thus kept hunting dogs, dogs are featured on it as well.

after the urgent treatment of Charles-Henri's father, Jean-Baptiste. Even among other priests, the most learned class of the time, Father Grisel was incredibly erudite. Charles-Henri was also a remarkably quick study. When Charles-Henri was fourteen years old, Father Grisel died. Charles-Henri was unable to recover from the sadness of his passing for over half a year.



The Sanson Family Residence

A large mansion located outside the gates of Paris during the Revolution, in the area that is now the ninth arrondissement. It featured a full examination room and laboratory. More than ten members of the household staff lived on the premises.



The Sanson Family as Physicians

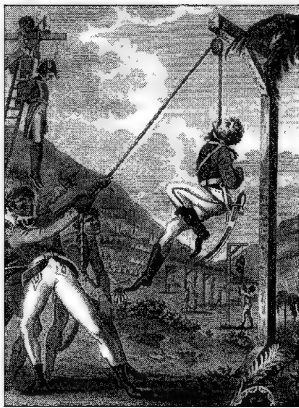
The Sanson family practiced medicine as a side business for many generations. Given that they had close proximity to countless corpses, on which they conducted clinical experiments, their medical skills were said to meet the highest standards of the day.

Charles-Henri Assumes the Family Role at Fifteen

The year following Father Grisel's death, Charles-Henri's father, Jean-Baptiste, suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed. Charles-Henri had to step up and take on his father's role as executioner. While he was still far from prepared for this role, Charles-Henri officially ascended the executioner's block at age sixteen. His first task was the hanging of a woman named Marie Catherine Lescombat, who had conspired to murder her husband. She was said to have been a young and beautiful woman, and thus, he was unable to calmly and composedly carry out the execution. Charles-Henri failed time and time again, and only succeeded on the fifth or sixth attempt. For certain, it was a disappointing debut upon the block, but then again, it's said the previous heads of the house had similar beginnings.

Executions Were a Popular Pastime

Incidentally, though watching a brutal execution was horrifying, it's also necessary to note that executions were a sort of spectacle, presented as entertainment for the people of this era. The state made these executions public for show. But the general public cared little for their political meaning; they were a distraction from daily life, like watching a sports match or a play today. Whenever there was an execution, the audience would watch with bated breath as it transpired.



Hanging

A noose is placed around the neck of the condemned after making them climb atop a ladder or similar structure, and then they are hanged by removing the ladder or other means of support. Generally, death was caused by suffocation, in which case the person would suffer for ten to twenty minutes. In modern executions by hanging, the focus is on breaking the neck, rather than suffocation, to reduce suffering.

Father Grisel

This is the priest that Jean-Baptiste asked to tutor Charles-Henri when there was no other recourse for his education. At the time, priests were deeply intellectual, and they are known to have taught Latin, literature, philosophy, oratory, logic, law, the Old Testament (which was ancient history), and the Bible (as described in Balzac's *The Human Comedy*).



Methods of Pre-Revolutionary Executions

The main site where death sentences were carried out was the *Place de Grève*, directly in front of the Paris City Hall, located in the center of Paris (see photo on page 606). Those condemned to die were housed in a prison in the Conciergerie—a medieval structure on the Seine River—and brought to the square by carriage. Today, these places of execution and atrocity are bustling and filled with tourists.

Before the Revolution, there were various methods of execution. These included hanging, beheading, burning at the stake, the breaking wheel, and dismemberment. With the exception of beheading, these methods caused prolonged agony and anguish before death. The people of the revolutionary era actually considered beheading to be an extremely humane method of execution, as it was quick and the condemned suffered the least pain. It should be understood, however, that beheading a person using a sword is no simple task. The masses watching the spectacle would cheer excitedly when the executioner removed the head with a single stroke, but were the executioner to make a messy error, the anger toward the condemned would be transferred to the executioner. In the worst of cases, riots would ensue, often bringing the executioner into danger. It turns out that executions can be deadly not just for the condemned but also for the executioner.



The Breaking Wheel

Once the condemned is attached firmly to the wheel, the arms and legs, hands and feet, and chest are bludgeoned repeatedly with iron rods, and then they are simply left to die on the wheel. Given that it could be a considerable amount of time before the arrival of death, the unbearable suffering would continue for quite a while. Apparently, this method of execution was developed from an earlier practice of simply running over the convicted with a horse-drawn cart.



Decapitation

This was a method of execution reserved for the nobility. It was often used for formal deaths on the battlefield, and some even considered such a death to be an honor. In France, the sword was used to perform the majority of beheadings. The executioner was expected to be an accomplished professional with the prowess to behead an aristocrat or a noble in a single stroke so that they could die not only with dignity but also without suffering.

CHAPTER 2

The History of Execution as a Profession

Text by historian Ryuta Osada. Born in Tokyo in 1976. Author of *The Martial Arts of Medieval Europe* and *The Martial Arts of Medieval Europe 2*, both published in Japan by Shinkigensha.

The cross that was borne upon the back of the executioner held a stark dichotomy, as he was both the guardian of justice and the angel of death.

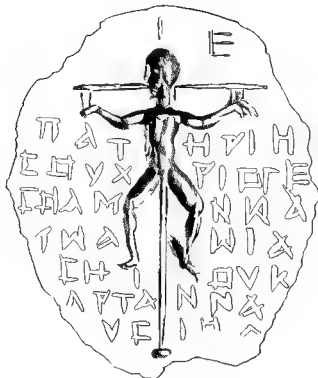
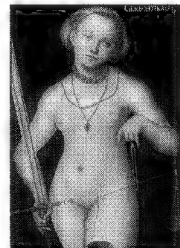
The role of executioner was a pivotal position in society, one that was appointed by the king himself. However, there were quite a few things to consider when planning and carrying out an execution, such as available technology, unknown variables, cost, and, of course, mental fortitude. In the long history of capital punishment, where does the Sanson family stand? The following will attempt to untangle the veiled history of this profession as a whole.

Capital Punishment: The Ultimate Exercise in Power

The origins of capital punishment are seated in simple revenge. While the aim of modern institutions is to rehabilitate the offender, the sole purpose of these ancient punishments was to bring about retaliation—an

Allegory of Justice
Painting by Lucas Cranach

Also depicted on the executioner's sword of the Sanson family. She holds a sword, which symbolizes power, and scales, which symbolize justice.



CRUCIFIXION

Protracted and prolonged suffering and humiliation.
Deemed the most miserable of punishments in Rome.

Era: Ancient times

Crimes: Treason, etc.

Implements: Lumber, rope, nails

One of the oldest methods of implementing the death penalty, dating all the way back to ancient Greece. While the shape of the beams used for crucifixion varied over the centuries, in ancient Rome it was a punishment used for treasonous slaves and traitors to the state, but it was not used on Roman citizens themselves. It is said that the Roman army had a special unit dedicated to carrying out crucifixions, and there could be rows of crucified bodies along the roads and viaducts leading into major cities. As for the execution itself, as the arms were pulled upward, the lungs couldn't expand to properly facilitate breathing, and usually, the victim died of asphyxiation. Some records show people could survive for several days in this manner. Since supporting their weight using their legs helped them to breathe, another approach was often taken where both legs were broken so that the victim could expire more quickly.

eye for an eye—by inflicting the same degree of harm, anguish, and injustice upon the offender as their victim may have suffered. The greater the injustice suffered by the victim, the greater the retribution for the offender. For particularly grievous crimes, the offender would pay with their life. Thus, the ultimate form of revenge was born: the death penalty.

However, if this right of vengeance were to be bestowed upon the individual, the result would be revenge begetting revenge in an unending loop. To prevent this inevitable cycle from starting, and thus minimize the number of perpetrators and victims, the government during this era created a state monopoly on the right to use this sort of revenge against criminals. The death penalty, which would take the life of a citizen, was a demonstration and symbol of the ultimate power of the state over its citizens. And those that carried out that ultimate power were the executioners, represented by the Sanson family. Through these executioners, the state created key agents that would correct injustices and bring about justice. The allegory of Justice depicted on the sword the Sanson family used to carry out executions is shown holding scales, symbolizing fairness, and a sword, representing the power of life and death; this iconography showed the ultimate power of justice and of the executioner—the idealized portrayal.



BURNING AT THE STAKE

The sentence for Joan of Arc, who was denied even the “salvation of the soul” after death.

Era: Until modern era

Crimes: Treason, heresy, etc.

Implements: Kindling, rope, wooden post

This was a method of punishing criminals by burning them with fire. In the majority of cases, the person died from carbon monoxide poisoning, but in the case of smaller fires, the heat of the flames would kill the offender. The purpose of destroying the body with fire was to deny salvation in the afterlife by making the body disappear; this punishment would continue eternally, as it would “eliminate the opportunity to receive judgment, even after the second coming of Christ, so that the soul would never be saved.” The human body is immensely difficult to burn, however, and would require about ten hours to be completely obliterated. In the case of Joan of Arc’s burning at the stake, once she died, the flames were allowed to burn down, her body was stripped naked, and then the flames were reignited until the conflagration reduced her body to ash.

Joan of Arc's Death at the Stake
Painting by Hermann Anton Stilke

The Ever-Changing Shape of the Death Penalty

Unlike the death penalty of the modern era, the premodern death penalty was focused on the method of execution; it was thought that for a great injustice, a mere death was not enough to balance the scales. Various punishments were devised in order to restore equilibrium. Many of the methods by which death penalties were carried out seemed brutal. However, only a well-prepared, skilled, and, above all, truly professional person with the mental fortitude to calmly carry out an execution, unperturbed by the violence at hand, could successfully serve in this role. It was a strong sense of pride, the pride of being the deliverers of justice, that allowed executioners to carry out the cruel and brutal punishments with composure, a sense of duty, and self-control.

Executioners put their own lives on the line, and they were constantly questioned in regard to their management of a situation.

First off, let us examine the requisite skills of the executioner. In ancient Rome, there was a punishment known as *damnatio ad bestias*, or death by animal. This was a punishment chiefly used for slaves and criminals, in which the condemned were slaughtered by wild animals. While this method seems simple on the surface, in actuality, the animals were placed in environments foreign to them and were terrified by the screams, cheers, and jeers of the crowd—often too terrified to maul the criminal awaiting their death. Thus, the executioners had to specially train these animals, who could not distinguish the guilty from the innocent; in the eyes of the beasts, not only the condemned but also the crowd and the executioner himself were prey. While looking after his own safety, the executioner had to protect the safety of the spectators and ensure the animal attacked only the target. Afterward, the executioner also had to be able to safely return the animal to its cage.



DAMNATIO AD BESTIAS

A form of punishment that completely dehumanized the victim. Also a very dangerous endeavor for the executioner, given the use of feral beasts.

Era: Ancient times

Crimes: Desertion, witchcraft, poisoning, forgery, treason, patricide

Implements: Wild animals, rope, stakes or pillars, devices to prevent the escape of animals

Within this particular form of punishment from ancient times were two methods: in one, the condemned was strapped to a stake or otherwise without means to defend themselves, and in the other, they were issued a weapon of some sort. Very commonly, lions were used in this painful endeavor, but leopards, bears, hyenas, elephants, and, rarely, even animals such as zebras and giraffes were used as well. This punishment was a complete revocation of rights and dignity and was used for some of the most heinous crimes in the Roman era, but for many, it was just lunchtime entertainment. The financial cost of importing such beasts must have been stratospheric. While the executioner was generally in charge of keeping the condemned in check, the addition of wild animals meant that there was a particular amount of danger involved in this process.



BLOWING FROM A GUN

Also known as *mitraille*. An execution of Portuguese and Spanish origin.

Era: Modern to contemporary era

Crimes: Rebellion, etc.

Implements: Cannon

The victim was stood in front of a cannon or, in other cases, tied to the cannon's muzzle, and the cannon was fired to blow them away. In 1793, amid the French Revolution, about 270 people were executed in this way as the rebellion in the city of Lyon was suppressed. Sadly, death was not instantaneous, and thus many had to be put down in a final coup de grâce. Generally, blanks were used, as the percussive explosion was enough to do the job, but sometimes live ammunition was used (actual cannonballs). It was extremely dangerous—the ammunition could fragment on impact and cause disaster all around the scene of the execution.

Merely conducting the execution isn't enough; it has to be properly prepared and thought out well in advance. Take the examples of *mitraillede* (execution by cannon) and burning at the stake. In the case of burning at the stake, one had to be careful in positioning the fire so that an errant spark wouldn't take to the wind, land on a nearby building, and cause a raging fire. And in regard to *mitraillede*, one would have to position the cannon and the targets so that shrapnel and bits of flesh and bone wouldn't damage buildings or hit spectators. In addition, to prepare for burning at the stake, an immense amount of lumber and kindling must be secured, and for *mitraillede*, cannons, personnel to fire them, and ammunition must be procured as well, and all arrangements should be made in advance so that any implements can be positioned prior to the day of the execution.

The same goes for the setup and establishment of other execution sites. The ground plans and the prisoner misdirection routes were studied thoroughly to make sure that the executions could be carried out in a timely manner; the movement of spectators and other participants was anticipated; and the guards were carefully selected, placed in formation, and then deployed. In a certain regard, nowadays the executioner could be seen as akin to the promoter of a major event—a large outdoor music festival, for example.

Responsibility of the Executioner to Inform the Public of the Meaning of the Execution

Just as the message of a film might be expressed through its story, the death penalty was not merely about killing the guilty: it was an important responsibility to convey the regime's message to the crowd.

Since times of old, the death penalty has, in many cases, had a strong sense of being for show. In such cases, the message had to be one that reminded people not to commit crimes, because those found guilty would meet a similar fate. For this purpose, it was necessary to show extreme pain and humiliation. Perhaps this is why the death penalty, intended as an example, became more of a show as time went on, and more spectacular and extreme methods were devised. On the other hand, many of the execution methods without

The dismemberment execution (also known as quartering) depicted in *Innocent*. This is how that great spectacle was arranged.

DISMEMBERMENT

A grand execution that happened for the first time in 147 years. The amount of preparation was enormous, as it also involved torture and the burning of the corpse.

Era: Ancient to early modern

Crimes: Treason, murder, etc.

Implements: Animals, axes, ropes, chains, wooden pillars, pyre timbers, etc.

Generally, a rope would be attached to a limb and the other end tied to an animal, and the animal would be made to move away from the victim in order to tear off the limb. The execution of Damien depicted in *Innocent* was the first execution of this sort carried out in 147 years. Tens of thousands of spectators were expected, and arrangements were made for not only the condemned and the executioner but also the escort guard and soldiers that would protect the public and everyone else involved. In this case, since the decision was made to torture the victim prior to the execution and to burn the body after, torture instruments, fire, and measures to prevent the spread of fire via an errant spark or ember were painstakingly conceived and implemented. Above this text is an illustration that depicts this execution.



the element of showmanship—such as decapitation—are simple and dispense with pain and suffering on the part of the condemned.

Just as the infliction of physical agony and humiliation was a response to the crime that was committed, the executioners also inflicted visually shocking and viscerally repulsive punishments as a warning to the public. As a result, executioners were often labeled as brutal murderers who took pleasure in tormenting and agonizing the condemned. However, they were simply carrying out their duty and responsibility.

The Humanitarian Transformation of the Death Penalty

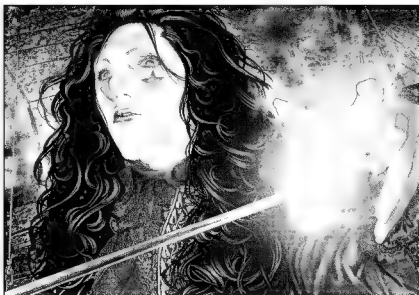
As time progressed, the nature of the death penalty changed. The idea began to prevail that while there could be no greater retribution for a crime than taking the life of the guilty, they should not be subjected to any undue or unnecessary suffering. During Charles's time, the forms of capital punishment were, with very few exceptions, limited to three types: beheading, dismemberment, and hanging.

However, no matter how one might try to justify why someone is being put to death, it is still killing a human being. The contradictory mantle and reputation of being both the guardian of justice and the Grim Reaper was the cross that the Sanson family and other executioners had to bear throughout their lives. Charles was known as an ardent death penalty abolitionist, but this was not only to save the condemned; he also hoped to save other executioners from a life of despair and woe. In that era, the idea of abolishing the death penalty was nothing but a pie-in-the-sky pipe dream. However, Charles still charged forth under the banner of his cause . . . after all, only an executioner can know an executioner.

THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTIONS

TORTURER

SOUBISE



At this time, it was difficult to obtain scientific evidence (and often, this wasn't even considered), so getting a confession was the most important method of ascertaining guilt. Torturers were responsible for inquiring into the guilt of those who were deemed to have sufficient evidence against them, eliciting confessions from any accomplices to the crime, and torturing the accused before the execution. Soubise was a torturer who was involved in the execution of Damiens, which was described in detail in *Memoirs of the Sansons*.

ASSISTANT

ANDRE LEGRIS



An assistant employed by the Sanson family to help with the executions. The assistant's main duties included disposing of the debris and disjecta following an execution and driving the wagons and carts. Andre Legris was the actual assistant mentioned in *Memoirs of the Sansons*. During Damiens's dismemberment, Nicolas originally took over the job of torturer because Soubise was inebriated. However, Nicolas's hands shook uncontrollably, so Andre Legris took his place.

CHAPTER 2

The Sanson Family: History of the First Three Generations

The dramatic story of a rather extreme family, up to Charles-Henri Sanson of the fourth generation.

The Sansons remained the dominant family of executioners in the kingdom of France for about two hundred years, a powerhouse at the time. Let's learn about the origins of their family and the stories of the various heads of the family.

THE ANCESTORS OF A FAMILY WHOSE ROOTS GREW FROM LOVE

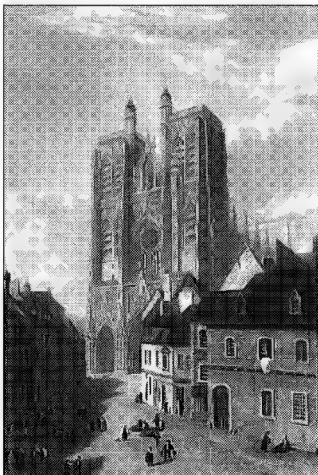
Charles Sanson de Longval

1635–1707

Born into an influential family in the northern French city of Abbeville. While serving as an officer in the military, Charles Sanson de Longval fell in love with the daughter of an executioner, married her, and thus became the founder of House Sanson, the family of executioners.

The Sansons were originally a prominent family of high social status in Abbeville, a coastal city near the Normandy region of northern France. Charles was a member of this family. He served as an officer in

The port of Dieppe, where Charles Sanson fell in love with the executioner's daughter. Painting by Claude-Joseph Vernet, 1765.



The church in Abbeville, a city in northern France, where Sanson was born. Painting from 1850.

areas that are now part of Holland and Belgium, and during a protracted stay in the coastal town of Dieppe, he met and fell in love with a beautiful woman, Marguerite Jouenne. She was, however, the daughter of an executioner. Determined to do whatever it took to nourish this love and remain in her life, he became an executioner himself. And this was the birth and emergence of House Sanson, a family of executioners whose star still shines brightly in the constellation of French history.

According to *Memoirs of the Sansons*, House Sanson's interest in human anatomy began with him. The medical knowledge handed down in the Sanson family that was compiled at the time of Jean-Baptiste and Charles-Henri is thought to have been based upon his research. While steadily carrying out his duties as an executioner, he also seemed to have been a man of character and integrity, and he spent several years fulfilling the last request of a condemned prisoner.

However, in 1699, at the age of sixty-four, he suddenly suffered a nervous breakdown. It is recorded that he preferred solitude, was always frightened, became startled by the slightest sound, and had to keep a light on at all times because of his extreme fear of the dark. These are symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and it is likely that the accumulated mental stress from the executions he performed manifested in his old age. He married again in July of the same year to an upholsterer's daughter, Jeanne-Renée Dubut, who died in 1707.



Overlooking the Place de Grève in front of the Paris City Hall, the location of executions since the first generation of Sansons. Painted in the early seventeenth century.

THE SECOND-GENERATION HEAD OF HOUSE SANSON WAS A KINDHEARTED EXECUTIONER THAT LOVED HIS WIFE

Charles Sanson II

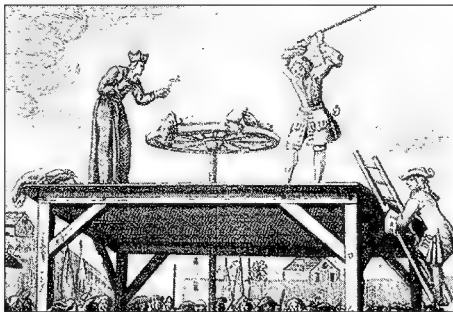
1681–1726

Despite his profession steeped in blood, Charles II's character was reported to be so humane and honest that even the nobility admired him. Still known as a doting and loving husband, he led a quiet life in his mansion away from all the hustle and bustle of Paris. He was also involved in the execution of prominent figures of the time, such as the King of Bandits, Cartouche, as well as Count Antoine-Joseph de Horn.

In *Memoirs of the Sansons*, he is described as gentle, kind, and courteous, much like his mother, Marguerite Jouenne. At the time of the execution of the Count de Horn, who was condemned to death upon the breaking wheel, he did not accept the money offered by the count's relatives to ease his suffering, but strangled him secretly by his own volition. He also killed de Horn's accomplice instantly by striking him directly in the chest. The story goes that his aristocratic relatives were impressed by this honest and dignified display.

He was also responsible for the execution of other notable criminals, among them the legendary bandit leader Cartouche and his gang, whose existence was doubted by many at the time.

He died suddenly in 1726 at the age of forty-five.



The Punishment of the Great Bandit King Cartouche on the Breaking Wheel

Cartouche was the leader of a band of thieves who had made a name for themselves in the Paris area, and when he was arrested in 1721, he was executed by Charles Sanson II, with all of Paris rushing to get a glimpse of him. His body was uncannily strong, however, and it took eleven blows with an iron rod to break the bones in his limbs. There was also an order to strangle him with a leather strap after several salvos of blows, but there was immense chaos during the execution, and that never happened; he survived for twenty minutes on the wheel.

The Arrest of the Great Bandit King Cartouche

All of Paris was in an uproar over the arrest of the bandit who had been so invisible and elusive that people thought his very existence was a fairy tale, an urban legend.



THE THIRD GENERATION MADE HIS DEBUT AT AGE SEVEN AND SERVED AS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE FAMILY

Charles-Jean-Baptiste Sanson

1719–1778

At seven years old, Jean-Baptiste succeeded Charles Sanson II, who died suddenly. While very strict, he was also devoted and, at times, gentle, like his mother, Anne-Marthe Dubut. He was known as an excellent surgeon and earned the trust and respect of all those around him.

Jean-Baptiste was the third head of House Sanson, and he produced many children—who would also go on to become executioners throughout France. He was born in April 1719, the eldest son of Charles Sanson II. His appointment at only seven years of age as *Monsieur de Paris* was in jeopardy when Charles Sanson II died, but he was given the post with the strong support of his mother. At first, because of his youth, two inquisitors, Georges Hérisson (later executioner of Melun) and François Prudhomme, were appointed as his assistants, and he was present as only a witness.



Beheading of General Lally-Tollendal

(Thomas Arthur de Lally-Tollendal was one of the inspirations for Thomas-Arthur Griffin in *Innocent*)

Using the best of his swordsmanship, the third-generation head of House Sanson beheaded an old friend. The son of an exiled aristocrat from Ireland, General Lally was a proud and arrogant man. Despite his incredible military achievements, he was ultimately defeated by the British in India, resulting in the loss of the French colony there. Lally was a close friend of Jean-Baptiste. After Lally returned to France, he was sentenced to death for his part in the defeat in India. The fourth-generation head of house, Charles-Henri, was to carry out the execution. However, upon the block, Charles-Henri failed to behead Lally. Jean-Baptiste, who was paralyzed in half his body at this point, suddenly recovered, snatched the sword from Charles's hand, and decapitated Lally in a single blow.

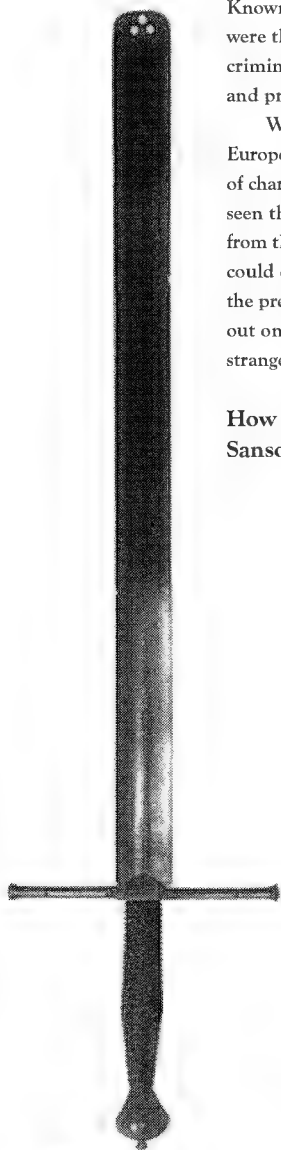
The third-generation Sanson was also known for being an excellent surgeon, intently dissecting the bodies of the executed and conducting scientific experiments. He compiled his knowledge into a book, which subsequent heads of the Sanson family used to treat their patients. Along with his mother, Marthe, he was known for his devotion and piety, and was probably viewed as a kind of god by the general public, who at the time had no real hope of seeing an actual doctor when they were ill.

In 1754, a stroke left him half-paralyzed, and he retired to the village of Brie-Comte-Robert, leaving his eldest son, Charles-Henri Sanson, to carry out executions in his stead from then on.

Known as the *Messieurs de Paris*, the successive heads of the Sanson family were the chief executioners of the kingdom, executing the traitors and great criminals who shook all of France as well as educating and advising the local and provincial executioners.

While reigning at the top of an executioner dynasty without equal in European history, the heads of the Sanson family were humble and honest men of character. They also made active contributions to medical care, and it can be seen that they were respected by all who knew them. However, when viewed from the opposite perspective, it can be said that the prejudice against executioners could only be shaken off to an extent. Charles-Henri Sanson also had to repel the prejudices of society through his own virtue and actions. The act of carrying out one's duties in the midst of a tumultuous revolution is a fate that is both strange and harsh.

How did the fourth-generation *Monsieur de Paris*, Charles-Henri Sanson, survive this tumultuous period of revolution?



FOURTH GENERATION

THE EXECUTIONER DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Charles-Henri Sanson

1739–1806

Beheaded nearly three thousand people during his lifetime, including King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, and many of the famous revolutionaries, such as Robespierre, Saint-Just, and Danton.

FIND OUT MORE IN INNOCENT!

The Pedigree of the Executioners of Paris House Sanson

First
Generation

CHARLES SANSON DE LONGVAL

1635–1707

*Fell in love with the daughter of an executioner
and ultimately became an executioner himself*

MARGUERITE JOUENNE

?–1681

*Daughter of the executioner of Dieppe
under the rule of Louis XIII*

Second
Generation

CHARLES

1681–1726

ANNE-MARTHE

*Younger sister of the second wife of
Charles Sanson de Longval*

ANNE RENÉE

1710–?

*Married to Chrétien Zelle,
executioner of Soissons*



Third
Generation

**CHARLES-JEAN-
BAPTISTE**

1719–1778

*Living separately for
medical treatment*

**NICOLAS-CHARLES-
GABRIEL**

1721–1795

MADELEINE

1719?–1740?

**MADELEINE-
CLAUDE-GABRIELLE**

1738?–1779?

*Would later marry
the executioner of Melun,
Pierre Hérisson*

JEANNE-GABRIELLE

*Her father is the executioner
of Touraine*



Fourth
Generation

CHARLES-HENRI SANSON

1739–1806

*Current head of House Sanson,
fourth-generation "Monsieur de Paris"*



MARIE-JOSEPH SANSON

1751–1813

*Executioner directly reporting to the Palace
of Versailles Judicial Officers of Court
"Prévôté de l'Hôtel"*

**LOUIS-CHARLES-
MARTIN**

1744–1817

*Later, executioner of
Tours and Auvergne*

**NICOLAS-CHARLES-
GABRIEL**

1745–1800

Later, executioner of Blois


**LOUIS-CYR-
CHARLEMAGNE**

1748–1794

Later, executioner of Provins

**PIERRE-
SHANKS**

1753–?



Shin'ichi Sakamoto was born in Osaka, Japan, on July 19, 1972. In 1990, his work *Keith!!* was selected in the *Weekly Shonen Jump* seventieth Hop★Step Awards. In 1991, he debuted with *Keith!!* and serialized both *Niragi Kioumaru* and *Masuraou* in *Weekly Young Jump*. The work he began serializing in 2007, *Kokou no Hito*, won the Excellence Prize at the fourteenth Japan Media Arts Festival. In 2013, *Innocent* was a jury selection in the manga division at the seventeenth Japan Media Arts Festival. In 2014, *Innocent* was nominated for a Readers' Award for the Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize, hosted by Asahi Shimbun. In 2015, *Innocent* was nominated and placed at seventh at the Manga Taishō.

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INNOCENT

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A WORLD FREE OF EXECUTION
will be sought at the cost of further death.

What has begun must be seen to an end. Despite the sorrows of a broken heart, Charles must carry out the execution of the century. He swears to fulfill his duty mercifully, but fate plays a cruel hand, and one member of the Sanson family intervenes in a shocking display. This omnibus edition collects volumes 4–6 of the original Japanese manga series!

